

1308 Kingdom of God Extra Note: Eternal Wrath

1. Wrath is not an essential attribute of God: Unlike the other attributes of God, wrath is not something which pertains to God's eternal nature. God *is* love, righteous, wise, good etc. He however needs to *become* angry (Num 11:10; Judges 10:7; 1Ki 8:46;11:9 etc.) The Bible never says that "God is wrath". There was never an eternal cause in the Godhead itself which would move God to become angry.

2. This raises the question about whether wrath is eternal in relation to the future of humanity.

3. The New Testament usage for *orge* is restricted to temporal displays of God's punishment on human sin.

4. God's wrath subsides in eternity because eternal justice has been served, sin has been dealt with by the second death.

5. References like Matt 3:12; 18:34; Rev 14:10 etc. refer not to a state in God but the eternal punishment that humans must endure for sin.

6. God is not in a mode of punishing forever.

““Return, faithless Israel, declares the Lord. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the Lord; I will not be angry forever.” (Jer 3:12)

“He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.” (Ps 103:9)