

### "The Empty Cup"

He is Risen! Great....now what does that mean? He is risen....why is that important? What difference does it make? What is the big deal? Great questions and I am glad that you asked...Last week we learned that Jesus is the only way to God and every other religion fails to solve our sin nature. They are man's attempts to reach God based on performance and yet followers of Jesus accept God's effort to reach man through surrender.

But as common as that question is....soon after the question of How can Jesus be the only way?...the next question is usually along these lines..."Why does God slaughter babies and children in the Old Testament and then invite them into His lap in the New Testament?"

Have you heard that question? Usually the person asking it is not really asking a question...they are making a statement. They are actually saying, "How could you be so foolish to believe that a God who destroys innocent women and children, wipes out His own creation, seems to be off the rails with anger....has suddenly become your Savior and is caring, loving, protective and supportive like a Shepherd? God says He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow....looks to me like He is lying. I can't love or trust a God that does that to people." Did God just decide one day to play nice?

We are taught from a young age at church that God is love. We are told he is the kindest being who has or ever could exist. But then as we grow older we begin to read books of Scripture like Hosea and we read that God condones "little ones" being dashed against the rocks and pregnant women being torn open. If people don't fully reject God because they find these things repulsive, often times people come to the conclusion that the Old Testament and the New Testament are divided. The Old Testament is about the God of anger but in the New Testament God changes and becomes a God of love.

Even a casual reader of the Bible notices that between the alleged divine endorsement of genocide in the conquest of Canaan and Jesus's call for love of enemies in his Sermon on the Mount, something has clearly changed.

It is pretty obvious isn't it? The Old Testament is a blood bath. God seems to kill everyone. He is always angry and always trying to show the Jewish People His love and at the same time punish them for rejecting Him. Yet the NT seems to be the make up time where God is trying to show us His love for us. Honestly, it looks kind of like an abusive relationship when you casually read it. I will beat you up and then try to convince you how much I love you. I get it. I understand the question. I see the contrast. You can't read the Bible and act like it is not there. God in the Old Testament really seemed to have an anger and wrath issue. Actually, it is not an illusion, He really does.

Clearly something must have happened to God. It is almost as if one day everything changed. It seems that God went from a "wrath-filled vengeance is mine God" to a "patient, forgiving, caring, I love you God."

That is why many Christians stay in the New Testament. They love the God that Jesus reveals but they still feel judged by the God they see in the Old Testament.

Those who question us on this are right. They just don't realize how right. They are so close to the truth and yet so far away.

What is interesting is that they have stumbled across what is probably the most powerful evidence that Jesus Is God and is our Savior....

We often think about what God will do to us because of our sins...but we rarely think about how our sins impact God.

We rarely think about how our sins in many way force God to deal with us differently. He is holy, just and righteous...He has to respond to that which is not.

This obvious change in God is one of the strongest testimonies to the truth of the Bible. So it is interesting to me that so many use this observation to walk away from God. I can't relate to a God who kills babies. Truthfully God can't relate to sinners who force His hand to do so. To better understand this, let's go back and unpack it a bit.

#### The Jews- God's Chosen People

God chose Abraham...randomly...He chose to make the Jewish People His People. He can do that, He is God. He promised Abraham that He would bless them, multiply them, and He would be their God. He gave them rules to live by and then repeatedly told them that all they had to do was to obey Him....Obey Him and they would be blessed, turn from Him and they would surely be destroyed. And it turns out, God was absolutely serious. But Why? Why have a chosen people at all? What is the big deal about Abraham's descendants? Well the second part of that promise...is the Messiah would come from them.

We often fail to understand that the most important thing to God is that the Messiah gets to earth to save us. Nothing is more important than creating and protecting the plan to allow God to come save us. In order for you and I and millions of others to be saved, Jesus had to get to earth. From God's perspective, nothing trumps that necessity. And Jesus was first and foremost the Jewish Messiah.

If Jesus doesn't come everyone dies. If the Jewish line is not preserved, then a Jewish Messiah can't die on the cross for our sins. If the Commandments that God gave to Moses and the Jews are not followed, if the Jewish hearts are not turned toward God....then Messiah can't come.

For the Jewish nation, a cursory read of the Prophets shows a repetitive process. God tells the Jewish people to obey Him and He will bless them. When they obey, His blessings pour out overflowing. But once they live in those blessings for a while, they reject Him and chase after other Gods. God gets angry and calls down some form of supernatural punishment. God keeps His promise of what happens if they disobey.....Many die and the God starts again with a Remnant.

In light of what they have just seen, they are on board for a little while..they obey God but .then they too reject God and choose their own way...and the cycle starts all over again. To those who read it superficially, the Jewish Scriptures read like a book of an angry God and helpless innocent humans being tortured by His wrath because they are not obedient. He appears to be a God of conditional love. Take a look at just one example as God speaks to us through the prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 5:5-6 (ESV) 5 "Thus says the Lord God: This is Jerusalem. I have set her in the center of the nations, with countries all around her. 6 And she has rebelled against my rules by doing wickedness more than the nations, and against my statutes more than the countries all around her; for they have rejected my rules and have not walked in my statutes.

Ezekiel 5:7–8 (ESV) 7 Therefore thus says the Lord God: Because you are more turbulent than the nations that are all around you, and have not walked in my statutes or obeyed my rules, and have not even acted according to the rules of the nations that are all around you, 8 therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, even I, am against you. And I will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations.

Ezekiel 5:9–10 (ESV) 9 And because of all your abominations I will do with you what I have never yet done, and the like of which I will never do again. 10 Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers. And I will execute judgments on you, and any of you who survive I will scatter to all the winds.

Ezekiel 5:11 (ESV) 11 Therefore, as I live, declares the Lord God, surely, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations, therefore I will withdraw. My eye will not spare, and I will have no pity.

Ezekiel 5:12–13 (ESV) 12 A third part of you shall die of pestilence and be consumed with famine in your midst; a third part shall fall by the sword all around you; and a third part I will scatter to all the winds and will unsheathe the sword after them. 13 "Thus shall my anger spend itself, and I will vent my fury upon them and satisfy myself. And they shall know that I am the Lord—that I have spoken in my jealousy—when I spend my fury upon them.

Ezekiel 5:13–16 (ESV) 14 Moreover, I will make you a desolation and an object of reproach among the nations all around you and in the sight of all who pass by. 15 You shall be a reproach and a taunt, a warning and a horror, to the nations all around you, when I execute judgments on you in anger and fury, and with furious rebukes—I am the Lord; I have spoken— 16 when I send against you the deadly arrows of famine, arrows for destruction, which I will send to destroy you, and when I bring more and more famine upon you and break your supply of bread.

Ezekiel 5:17 (ESV) 17 I will send famine and wild beasts against you, and they will rob you of your children. Pestilence and blood shall pass through you, and I will bring the sword upon you. I am the Lord; I have spoken."

Wow. God seems off the rails a bit. And that was said to His chosen people...the descendants of Abraham...The people He rescued from Egypt. Those He led into the Promised Land. Those who are given the task of keeping the Scriptures and ushering in the Messiah.

I execute judgments on you in anger and fury, and with furious rebukes.....I will vent my anger and satisfy myself....In jealousy I will spend my anger and my fury upon them....

Seems a bit extreme doesn't it? They didn't obey His laws and God goes ballistic. It seems to us that God is overreacting a bit.....ok a lot. What are we missing? When we don't understand God the problem is always with us...not Him.

God would eventually send the Assyrians and the Babylonians to completely destroy the nation of Israel and drive what remained of them into captivity. All because they for the most part overwhelmingly rejected Him despite years of pleading and encouragement to trust Him. He would finally cut the tree Israel down to a stump to prepare for the root of the Messiah.

#### The Pagans

God really expected His people to obey His laws. But what about the other nations? What about the Pagans? It is even worse for those who aren't Jewish.

There are many places in the Old Testament where God commands people to wipe out other people, including women, children, and even infants. Common examples include the death of the first born babies in Egypt when Pharaoh refused to release the Israelites, the total annihilation of Sodom and Gomora which included the children, God's command to Saul to destroy Amalek including "both man and woman, child and infant", and throughout Deuteronomy God commands the people to destroy the people in the lands they will be invading. Lets look at that command.

Deuteronomy 7:1-4 (ESV) 1 "When the Lord your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, .....seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, 2 and when the Lord your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. 3 You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, 4 for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.

Deuteronomy 7:16 (ESV) 16 And you shall consume all the peoples that the Lord your God will give over to you. Your eye shall not pity them, neither shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you.

Deuteronomy 20:16-17 (ESV) 16 But in the cities of these peoples that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes,

Complete destruction....of everybody...men, women, children, infants....every one...

We get upset and confused when we read about God commanding the Israelites to wipe out groups of people, including children and infants, because we think this is not fair. By "not fair" we mean those children did not deserve to be killed. The Bible affirms this. It never says God punished the children for the children's' sins. In fact, all those children who died all went to heaven.

The simple answer to why God killed babies in the Old Testament is because of their parents' sin. These parents were going to raise their children to turn against God and become people who would eventually destroy the Jewish line. How do we know? God told us.

4 For they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the Lord would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.

But here is our problem when we start trying to judge God. We don't know what He knows. We look at this group of children and we think everything is about them. Yet God looks at this group of children, the generations they will impact, the totality of the impact of their life on earth and how it impacts the overall plan of Salvation for all humans.

Remember, once man fell and chose Sin...everything God did was to try to save us and reestablish our relationship with Him.

Preserving the Jewish line became the most important thing because the Messiah....the Savior of the World....had to come through the Jewish people.

Because God gave us free will...and thus the will to disobey Him or love Him, Thus, two things trump all others. First, the Jewish people must maintain the purity of their relationship with God by obeying His laws and commandments....Second, Those who threaten the existence of that Jewish Line must be eliminated.

So the Jewish people would need to obey His commandments and create the environment for God Himself to enter in to His creation. And since God had ordained the time for the arrival of the Messiah, He would do what was necessary to keep that Jewish Remnant in place until the arrival of Messiah.

Up until the arrival of the Messiah, any people who threaten the existence of the Jewish people will be removed by God.

The Mission and Will of God is much greater than a nation, a people, or even a people of children.

These children and babies look innocent now...but they will grow up and turn your children away from God. They will destroy the Jewish line. They will reject God and be eternally damned for it. And If I allow them to survive, no one will ever be saved. Their death saves them and the Messiah.

God promises to maintain a lineage that would bring forth the Messiah. But if the enemies of God defeat the people of God, then the promise of God will fail. If God doesn't protect His people from their enemies, then the line of Jesus is cut off and there is no salvation for mankind.

If it wasn't for the violence of the Old Testament, you and I would be going to Hell right now. Now add to that the fact we're all sinners and deserve to die and go to hell yesterday, and the reality that we're even breathing today is sheer common grace from God. We think we deserve life on earth...that God owes it to us, but He does not. He never made that promise.

God is God! He rules and governs everything. And everything he does is just and right and good. God owes us nothing. God gives life and he takes life. Everybody who dies, dies because God wills that they die. God is taking life every day. He will take 150,000 lives today. Life is in God's hand. By the way, since we are on our high horse blaming God....100,000 babies are aborted in the world each day. Despite that, God will bring into life 350,000 people today. God decides when your last heartbeat will be, and whether it ends through cancer or a bullet wound. God governs. God owes us nothing. Not life and not an explanation. If I were to drop dead right now, or a shooter blows me away, God would have done me no wrong. He does no wrong to anybody when he takes their life, whether at 2 weeks or at age 92. God is not beholden to us at all. He doesn't owe us anything. If God determines that it is best for all of mankind to slaughter women and children then He can do so. He is God. We do not know what He knows.

We make decisions knowing so little and thinking we know more than God. We live in the moment, but God sees the future. He is aware of all the generations that come from this one. He is aware of what the sin nature in every genetic line will do and how that impacts the arrival of the Messiah. Since He gave everyone free will, God must have known that the survival of these Caananties would eventually destroy the nation of Israel, the Jewish people, and whatever Remnant may have remained...in doing so...the Jewish Messiah Jesus can't come to earth.

In fact, wiping out entire groups of people is one of the most loving things that God could have done for us and for those babies and children. Had they survived, they would have be separated from God forever. He brought them back to Him.

The death of babies does not mean that God loves us less that we thought. It means that He hates our sin more than we thought.

Wow pretty intense right? Welcome to Easter at Remnant!

Nothing but lilies, bunnies and baskets around here...

Can you believe I am preaching about this on Easter...me neither...I was like God are you sure?

Ok...you may be thinking...I get that it was necessary....but was it just? It still seems like genocide or murder to me. God says He is just and holy and righteous...

Clearly Jewish people in the Old Testament had differing experiences with God...Some saw Him as angry and judgmental...others as gracious and loving. I wonder what the difference was....Some saw Him the way we would see Him today...Look at these passages.

Jeremiah 31:3 (ESV) 3 the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Psalms 86:15 (ESV) 15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Psalms 136:26 (ESV) 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (ESV) 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV) 17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

You see in the Scriptures we jump to words like anger, fury, and destruction....but we gloss over the words that precede them. We understand that this response from God may be necessary, but is it just? Did you notice that in every passage, God gave warning after warning? Essentially begging them to not make Him do what He must do? Then when He does implement judgment He reminds them of their choices.

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Ezekiel 5:7–8 (ESV) 7 Therefore thus says the Lord God: Because you are more turbulent than the nations that are all around you, and have not walked in my statutes or obeyed my rules, and have not even acted according to the rules of the nations that are all around you, 8 therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, even I, am against you. And I will execute judgments in your midst in the sight of the nations.

Ezekiel 5:9–10 (ESV) 9 And because of all your abominations I will do with you what I have never yet done, and the like of which I will never do again. 10 Therefore fathers shall eat their sons in your midst, and sons shall eat their fathers. And I will execute judgments on you, and any of you who survive I will scatter to all the winds.

Ezekiel 5:11 (ESV) 11 Therefore, as I live, declares the Lord God, surely, because you have defiled my sanctuary with all your detestable things and with all your abominations, therefore I will withdraw. My eye will not spare, and I will have no pity.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (ESV) 9 Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

Deuteronomy 7:10–11 (ESV) 10 and repays to their face those who hate him, by destroying them. He will not be slack with one who hates him. He will repay him to his face. 11 You shall therefore be careful to do the commandment and the statutes and the rules that I command you today.

Deuteronomy 7:12–14 (ESV) 12 "And because you listen to these rules and keep and do them, the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the steadfast love that he swore to your fathers. 13 He will love you, bless you, and multiply you. ....14 You shall be blessed above all peoples.

Deuteronomy 8:19–20 (ESV) 19 And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. 20 Like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God.

God's wrath and fury is only poured out on people after they have repetitively, consistently and stubbornly rejected Him and His laws. He cannot in His holiness ignore their rebellion. He must respond.

It is like God is saying over and over....Look I have to punish sin...Your natural state is sin...My natural state is holiness...That is why we can't coexist...that is why our relationship is only a shadow of what it should be.

Please obey my rules...I love you...I don't want to have to respond in anger and wrath...but it is my natural reaction to sin....My Holiness is extreme and so my wrath against unholiness is extreme.

Like my parents use to say...please don't make me use this belt it will hurt me more than you.

When the Jewish people turned their hearts toward Him...He blessed them. As they turn from their sin nature and move their hearts toward Him He blesses them and draws near to them. Those who obeyed Him discovered Him to be loving, gracious, caring and encouraging. Those who did not keep His commandments discovered His wrath and judgment just as He has warned them and promised them. Their sins demanded that a just and righteous God respond swiftly and decisively in order to keep the cancer of sin from spreading to the Jewish line for the Messiah.

But, God knew that the Law was only a band aid for humans spiritually. They...we...could never be good enough. It was our nature to rebel against God. So in addition to the Law, God always promised a Messiah, a deliverer, a Savior who would take away the sins of the world and establish a holy relationship with the Father.

To those who lived in the Old Testament and believed in the Law and the Promise of God regarding the coming Messiah....He blessed..loved..protected and revealed Himself.....He offered them eternal life because of their faith in the Messiah to come.

They would be reborn Spiritually after the second coming of Christ.

Then we get to the New Testament....It seems like in the NT everything about God seems to change. This angry, jealous, child killing, people exterminating God suddenly becomes a loving shepherd. Anger and Fury has turned to love, forgiveness, mercy and grace....Those who surrender to Jesus know His love...those that don't, seem to be getting a pass on His anger, fury and wrath....It is almost like God doesn't seem offended anymore by people's sins. In the Old Testament He sent judgments and wiped out sin...now He just seems to let it happen. We see the God of these Scriptures...

John 3:16–18 (ESV) 16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Romans 5:8 (ESV) 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

1 John 4:19 (ESV) 19 We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:16 (ESV) 16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 John 3:1 (ESV) 1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Ephesians 2:4–5 (ESV) 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—

So...which is it? Is God the God of Wrath and Judgment of the Old Testament or is He the loving Savior and Father in the New Testament? Hebrews 13 tells us that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Numbers 23 says God does not change or change His mind.

Where did the anger, the wrath, the jealousy, the judgment, the furious rebukes, and the punishment go? How and why did everything change? Why did God suddenly become Mr Nice Guy. What happened?

God is and has always been love. He has always loved all of us unconditionally. At the same time though, He is always righteous and just. While He loves us...He truly....vehemently....aggressively...passionately...furiously...hates our sin. Because He knows what sin does to us. He knows the pain...the relational damage...the consequences of living life surrendered to Satan....and He came to save us from our nature.

We don't really understand His holiness....but His holiness demands a response to sin. A response that is measured but full. When people in the Old Testament sinned, God could only reply with anger and wrath...any less and He would be unrighteous.

But in the fullness of time, it was time to stop doling out His judgment and wrath in doses...hoping people would finally obey... The cycle of disobey the Law, punishment, remnant and start over must come to an end. It was time to handle the sin issue of man once and for all. A one time sacrifice...a one time outpouring of the cup of Father's wrath...every drop of it...and a one time payment of all sins of all time.

Two thousand years ago...on a Friday afternoon...on a hill outside of Jerusalem...Jesus, God Himself in human form, hung on a cross...there by choice because of love....and God the Father unleashed His wrath..... poured out all of His wrath....His anger....His fury...every last bit of it...on Himself...The wrath, fury and anger that God has about our sins....that in the Old Testament He poured out on people.....He poured out....get this...on Himself.....in our place.

God the Father....unleashed it all....onto God the Son. God the Son...Jesus....willfully and purposefully...went to the cross....to receive the wrath of the Father for every sin ever committed....past, present or future.

When the Son said it is finished....God the Father had no more wrath...His anger and wrath was justified because He poured it all out on Himself. Jesus died on the cross...took the punishment of sin...died for us...and answered once and for all...the justice demand of the Father for the sin nature of mankind.

Jesus came to earth to drink the cup of the Father's wrath. The Father was jealous, angry, and furious but He was not sinning....It was a righteous anger. The Father's wrath was full force, unrelenting, and without restraint. Jesus on the cross drank the Cup of Wrath...not in sips...but in gulps.

So why did God suddenly become Mr Nice Guy? ..Easter Happened. The Cross Happened...The Resurrection Happened. Your Salvation Happened. The Jewish line produced the World's Messiah and His mission to earth was completed. Jesus provided the way for every man to come back to the Father....our loving Father.

Why is God the Father so different in the New Testament? The Cup is empty. Jesus paid it all...and the Father has no more wrath left.

How do we know...that the Father has no more wrath left? How do we know that Jesus drank every drop of His wrath? How do we know that the price was fully paid? How do we know that we are no longer under the wrath of God?

Luke 24:1–6 (ESV) 1 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen.

The tomb is empty!

The Father examined the sacrifice of the Son and in His holiness declared that the full price of man's sin had been satisfied. The cup was empty. The Father's wrath exhausted and there was no more. If Jesus wasn't worthy or didn't pay it all...He never would have been resurrected. He overcame the punishment of sin....death.

All authority in Heaven and Earth now rests with Jesus. We now live in a time of grace. We have come down to one essential pivotal moment in human history. One final sacrifice for the sins of mankind. during this time of grace, the Holy Spirit is begging us to accept what Jesus did on the cross...so that we too can avoid the wrath of God for our sins.

You see...God has always loved us...never has stopped loving us...We are....like it or not....accept it or not....deeply loved by our creator.

God never changes. In the Old Testament, those who rejected Him and His laws fell under His judgment, wrath and punishment. Today, those who reject Jesus and what He did on the cross fall under His judgment, wrath and punishment.

In the Old Testament, those who rejected God's Promise of a Messiah were destined to eternal Hell. In the NT those who rejected Jesus as the Messiah are destined to eternal Hell.

In the Old Testament, those who surrendered to God's Laws and promise of the Messiah were in relationship with Him and experienced His blessings including eternal life. In the NT those who surrender to what Jesus did on the cross are in relationship with Him and experience His blessings including eternal life

God has remained consistent. He always loves us but must treat us according to our heart regarding Him and our sin.

Then the Father raised Jesus from the dead....to show that the punishment of sin has been paid....Death no longer has to be our destination...and sin no longer has to be our nature. Jesus overcame death and in doing so created a way for us to be reborn in the Spirit of God freed from our sin nature.

We are not given eternal life because of our performance....our avoidance of sin...or even our knowledge of Jesus. We are given eternal life and are reborn in the Spirit because we trust what Jesus did for us. We trust that He took our place...took God's wrath for our sins for us...and we trust Him with our salvation.

We are saved because we truly believe and trust that by the time God's Cup of Wrath Gets to us through Jesus...it will be completely empty.

So today we proclaim....He is Risen! Great....What does that mean? Why is that important? What difference does it make? What is the big deal? I am glad that you asked.

God loves you...but no matter how much He loves you..His holiness demands that your sin must be punished. If you don't believe me...read the Old Testament.

Jesus took the full force of God's wrath for you and me. He offers to take your place...to allow what He did on the cross to pay for your sins. But you still have free will. You can reject what Jesus did...you can tell Him that all those children who died, all the nations who were sacrificed, the Jewish line, His life, His death, His sacrifice...means nothing to you. You can tell Him to go save someone else.

But remember God never changes. Don't be misled by the time of grace that we are living in. There is only one sin left that unleashes the wrath of God. Those who refuse to trust that Jesus drank the cup for them...will have to drink the cup of His wrath on their own. When Jesus returns..He is pouring out His wrath on those who rejected Him and He pours it out of bowls not cups..Odd that who hate the angry God of the Old Testament are choosing the path that leads to Him.

Reject what Jesus did and you will spend eternity in Hell. Not because God hates you, but because your sin demands it. His love is unconditional. He loves you even if you never love Him. He loves you even if you reject Him and He has to allow you to choose Hell instead of Him.

So, God has a cup....a cup full of the wrath for your sins...In His holiness, He has to pour it out...Someone has to drink the cup of wrath for the sins you have done. The price has to be paid. God must pour out His wrath for your sins on somebody. And because He has risen...you have a choice.

One day you will meet Jesus....in His nail-scarred hands...He will be holding a cup. A cup that contains the wrath God has for your sins. Because He has risen, you can make sure that by the time it gets through Jesus and to you...that it is empty. Let's Pray