



# What Justifies God's Coming Wrath?

## A Response to Those Who Say a Literal Interpretation of Prophecy is Too Negative

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# Examples of Harsh Language in the Book of Revelation

**2:16** – “Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth” (**letter to Pergamum**)

**2:22-23a** – “Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of her deeds. And I will kill her children with pestilence...” (**letter to Thyatira**)

# Examples of Harsh Language in the Book of Revelation

## 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls

**6:8** – And I looked, and behold, and ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name “Death”; and Hades was following with him. And authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, TO KILL WITH SWORD AND WITH FAMINE AND WITH PESTILENCE AND BY THE WILD BEASTS OF THE EARTH” (**Fourth Seal**)

# Harsh Trumpet Judgments

8:11b

...and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter  
(3<sup>rd</sup> trumpet)

9:6

And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them.

9:10

And they have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is the power to hurt men for five months.  
(5<sup>th</sup> trumpet)



# Harsh Trumpet Judgments

9:15

And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and the day and month and year, were released, so that they might kill a third of mankind.

9:18

A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths.

(6<sup>th</sup> trumpet)

# Revelation 14:9b-11

**If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, the also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.**





Earthquake & Hail

Painful Sores

Armageddon

Sea becomes blood

Darkness

Rivers become blood

Scorching Heat





# Revelation 20:10

## Lake of Fire

**And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**



# Revelation 20:14-15

## Lake of Fire

**And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

# Revelation 19:11-21



Isn't this very negative?





Nicholas Kristof  
*NY Times* Columnist

# Apocalypse (Almost) Now

November 24, 2004

If America's secular liberals think they have it rough now, just wait until the Second Coming.

The "Left Behind" series, the best-selling novels for adults in the U.S., enthusiastically depict Jesus returning to slaughter everyone who is not a born-again Christian.

# Apocalypse (Almost) Now

November 24, 2004

The world's Hindus, Muslims, Jews and agnostics, along with many Catholics and Unitarians, are heaved into everlasting fire: "Jesus merely raised one hand a few inches and...they tumbled in, howling and screeching."

Gosh, what an uplifting scene.



# Apocalypse (Almost) Now

November 24, 2004

If Saudi Arabians wrote an Islamic version of this series, we would furiously demand that sensible Muslims repudiate such hate mongering. We should hold ourselves to the same standard.

# Apocalypse (Almost) Now

November 24, 2004

...Silly me. I'd forgotten the passage in the Bible about how Jesus intends to roast everyone from the good Samaritan to Gandhi in everlasting fire, simply because they weren't born-again Christians.

What gives God  
the right to pour  
out his  
judgment?



1. Be honest about the details

2. Certain things are  
only by divine  
prerogative

(Rev. 15:3-4, 16:5-6, 19:2)

3. Understand why  
God has the right to  
judge

# People Deserve It

## Rev. 16:5-6



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# God is the Creator

## Rev. 4



# The Lamb of God is the Redeemer

## Rev. 5





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