

Colossians 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

Analysis

For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience. Paul provides motivation: divine judgment. "The wrath of God" (hē orgē tou theou, ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ θεοῦ) isn't emotional outburst but settled opposition to sin, God's holy response to moral evil. "Cometh" (erchetai, ἔρχεται) uses present tense, possibly indicating certainty (prophetic present) or ongoing reality (wrath already operative through sin's consequences).

"Children of disobedience" (tous huiou tēs apeitheias, τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας) describes those characterized by persistent rebellion against God. Semitic idiom "children/sons of" indicates essential character. These aren't occasional sinners but individuals defined by disobedience, refusing God's authority. God's wrath justly falls on such rebellion. Believers escaped this wrath through Christ (1 Thessalonians 1:10) but shouldn't presume upon grace by continuing in sin.

Historical Context

Roman culture mocked divine judgment as primitive superstition. Epicurean philosophy taught that gods, if existing, had no interest in human affairs. Stoicism viewed fate as impersonal necessity. Against such backdrop, Paul's insistence on personal divine judgment—holy God responding actively to human sin—was countercultural. Yet this doctrine provided moral framework and ultimate justice, holding powerful accountable and promising vindication for the oppressed.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does belief in God's wrath against sin affect your view of sin's seriousness?
2. Do you presume upon grace, treating sin casually because you're forgiven, or does gratitude motivate holiness?
3. How would you explain God's wrath to someone who views God as cosmic grandfather tolerating everything?

Interlinear Text

δι'	ἃ	ἔρχεται	ἡ	ὀργή	τοῦ	θεοῦ	ἐπὶ	τοὺς
For	which things' sake	cometh	G3588	the wrath	G3588	of God	on	G3588
G1223	G3739	G2064		G3709		G2316	G1909	
υἱοὺς	τῆς	ἀπειθείας						
the children	G3588	of disobedience						
G5207		G543						

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 5:6 (Judgment): Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

Romans 1:18 (Judgment): For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

1 Peter 1:14 (Parallel theme): As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

