

B. Wrath vs. Peace in Romans

At times it is clear that the Wrath of God in Romans is something that God is exercising in physical lives while men are alive on earth. At other times it clearly points to an event some will face as judgment in the afterlife. When the wrath is descriptive of physical lives it is describing God turning men over to their sinful condition and not using them to carry out His purposes. This is exemplified in the nation of Israel where they were called for a purpose and experienced peace with God until they continuously rejected Him. The result was God, in his wrath, allowing them to be despised by the nations while He turned the focus of His program to the Gentiles. One day He will turn back to Israel but until then they are “vessels of wrath”.

What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— ²⁴ even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?
Romans 9:22-24 (ESV)

There were individuals within Israel who responded by faith. The rest became hardened and as a nation came under God's wrath. God allowed them to continue in their sin as it carried them farther and farther away from him.

What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, ⁸ as it is written, “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day.” ⁹ And David says, “Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; ¹⁰ let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever.”
Romans 11:7-10 (ESV)

As God turned Israel over to His wrath, He turned kindness towards the gentiles. However, even as he had kindness on the Gentiles – this was to have a long term effect of helping to restore Israel by provoking them to jealousy. It is obvious that His wrath is being exercised in judgment on their earthly lives. But when they turn to God – the result will be that much more glorious in the future.

So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. ¹² Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean! ¹³ Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴ in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?
Romans 11:11-15 (ESV)

Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness.
Romans 11:22 (ESV)

God's wrath was revealed against their disobedience.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.
Romans 1:18 (ESV)

This did not keep Him from showing mercy but God moved the focus to the Gentiles. Ultimately this will lead Israel to a position of Mercy as well. Since all will be under disobedience and undeserving then God can show mercy on all. There is no one who can stand having earned righteousness. And there is no one who will not be able to stand in God's MERCY! MERCY WINS!

For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.
Romans 11:30-32 (ESV)

Search results for: wrath		
Description	Context	Life / Afterlife
Ro 1:18 God's Wrath on Unrighteousness	18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.	Life
Ro 2:5 God's Righteous Judgment	5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.	Afterlife
Ro 2:8 God's Righteous Judgment	8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.	Afterlife
Ro 3:5 God's Righteousness Upheld	5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.)	"when" is not in view
Ro 4:15 The Promise Realized Through Faith	15 For the law brings wrath , but where there is no law there is no transgression.	"when" is not in view
Ro 5:9 Peace with God Through Faith	9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.	Afterlife
Ro 9:22 God's Sovereign Choice	22 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,	Life
Ro 12:19 Marks of the True Christian	19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."	"when" is not in view
Ro 13:4 Submission to the Authorities	4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.	Life
Ro 13:5 Submission to the Authorities	5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.	Life
Search results for: peace		
Description	Context	Life / Afterlife
Ro 1:7 Greeting	7 To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.	Life
Ro 2:10 God's Righteous Judgment	10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.	Life
Ro 3:17 No One Is Righteous	17 and the way of peace they have not known."	Life
Ro 5:1 Peace with God Through Faith	1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.	Life
Ro 8:6 Life in the Spirit	6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace .	Life
Ro 14:17 Do Not Cause Another to Stumble	17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.	Afterlife
Ro 14:19 Do Not Cause Another to Stumble	19 So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding.	Life
Ro 15:13 Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles	13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.	Life
Ro 15:33 Paul's Plan to Visit Rome	33 May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.	Life
Ro 16:20 Final Instructions and Greetings	20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.	Life