

## The Wrath To Come Matthew 3 Verse 7

Mt 3:1 ¶ "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, 6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 ¶ *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?* 8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: 9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. 10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Notice: John the Baptist was preaching, "***Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.***" to all those who came out to him in the wilderness, by the Jordan river. These only needed to be told "***Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,***" to be brought to repentance and be baptized. What a great blessing: to be enabled to hear the message of repentance, and know: that you are a sinner, that you need to repent of your sins which affirms the sinlessness of God, and that you need to be baptized as commanded by the word of God.

When you come to repentance: you are placed in the lowly position of sinner, which exalts God to his rightful position of the sinless and exalted One. Repentance acknowledges the finished work of Christ Jesus, in the forgiveness of sins, which exalts Jesus to the position of Saviour, Lord, and King.

When the Pharisees and the Sadducees came, they did not come with a desire to repent or to be baptized. We know this from the scripture in: ***Lu 7:30; 29 "And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him."***

John correctly names the Pharisees and Sadducees, by the Holy Spirit inspiration, as a generation of vipers. John, instead of telling them to repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, poses them the rhetorical question; "***who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?***" John knew they came, because all the people, the ones who would be their normal crowd, were coming to hear John the Baptist preach. The Pharisees lived by the letter of the law and raised themselves to the exalted position of being pure and holy. They were secure in their self-righteousness. Therefore, they saw no need for repentance. The Sadducees did not believe in angels, the Holy Spirit, the resurrection of the dead, nor that there was a hell. The exalted themselves to be their own god, and they did not see a need to repent. Both groups had no heart for true religion. They did not love God, but rather they chose to love their self-taught image of righteous me. What a picture of this present world and times. Multitudes of people who believing themselves to be gods and following the antichrist spirits.

The exact phrase "***the wrath to come***" is only found three times in scripture: In ***Mt 3:7***, and ***Lu 3:7***, being the same story and context. In the other reference we find: ***1Th 1:10; 9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.***" This verse points us to the thought of the eternal judicial wrath of God, in the hereafter for all the unsaved. This terrible fate is what the finished work of Jesus Christ has saved us, the children of God, from.

Thus, when we think of the phrase "***the wrath to come***" we think of what happens when a person dies. We know, according to scripture, the moment the body of a saved person dies; their soul is immediately in the eternal heaven with Christ, awaiting the resurrection of the body, the reuniting of soul and body at the final return of Christ, and then being carried away to the immortal heaven.

Wherefore, we understand: the moment the body of an unsaved person dies; the soul is immediately cast into hell, waiting the resurrection of the body, the reuniting of soul and body, and their return to the eternal lake of fire. Oh! What a terrible sentence to be recognized as a generation of vipers.

This gives us a better picture of what John the Baptist is asking the Pharisees and the Sadducees. Has someone told you what to expect when you die as you are? Have you come to openly repent, and willingly declare; I am a sinner and God is sinless? Have you come to confess that "**the kingdom of heaven is at hand**" which means that you confess that Jesus is the Christ?

Now, we better understand the greatness of the blessing of being able to hear, and understand, the rhetorical message: "**who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?**" Why is this a blessing? Because if you understand what you are by nature, you have evidence that you have been born-again by the Holy Spirit power. If you have been saved by God's marvelous grace, this means you can also hear, and understand, the message: "**Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**" Thank you, Lord Jesus, for revealing to us, our position of sinner saved by grace. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for revealing to us, your position of the Saviour of sinners. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your finished work. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for that blessed hope of the resurrection from the dead, unto life in the immortal heaven with you. Hallelujah! Amen!