

The wrathful tribal god

Many people allege that the absolute God the Father and Jehovah are the same, supposing that the typical violence of Old Testament can be found too in the New Testament, based in Ephesians 5:6, John 3:36 and 1 Thessalonians 2:16.

However we must consider that these texts don't refer necessarily to the Lord our Father, who is defined as "love" (1 John 4:8).

Translators of the biblical text generalized several times the translation of the word "God", causing a great confusion, not only in the original Hebrew text from Old Testament as well as in the original Greek text from New Testament.

Due to theological conveniences, it has been made the identification of Jehovah with God Father, but through a better analysis we can realize that a wrathful temperament is not applicable to the Father although it is certainly applicable to Jehovah.

By comparing 2 Samuel 24:1 that says: "Again the anger of Jehovah burned against Israel and he incited David against them, saying... Go and take a census of Israel and Judah" with 1 Chronicles 21:1 that says: "Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel", we can realize that Jehovah's anger is burned by Satan's impulses.

In that occasion David and the people of Israel were the victims of this impulsive anger, for 70.000 persons died from a plague sent by Jehovah to destroy them (1 Chronicles 24:15).

Many reasons make evident that wrath is a characteristic of Jehovah but not of God Father:

1. Wrath is a characteristic of the one that is not patient. According to 2 Peter 3:9 the Father is patient with us, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance, whereas in Psalms 7:11 it is written that Jehovah expresses his wrath every day. How different is the behavior of God Father typified by the father in the Parable of lost son (Luke 15:11 to 24) that waited every day for the return of his son because he loved him.
2. Wrath is a characteristic of the one that is emotionally instable. According to James 1:17 the Father does not change like shifting shadows, whereas in 2 Samuel 6:7 it is written that Jehovah's anger burned against Uzzah simply because this well-intentioned man tried to avoid the ark's fall for the oxen stumbled and he was struck down beside the ark.
3. Wrath is a characteristic of the one that is aggressive and violent. Jesus reprovved that kind of temperament during the Sermon of Beatitudes (Matthew 5:22), whereas Jehovah had the set intention of killing Gerson, Moses' son, for he hadn't been circumcised yet according to the requirements of Law's Covenant (Exodus 4:24). Jehovah's anger had only been appeased when Zipporah, Moses' wife, cut off her son's foreskin (Exodus 4:25).
4. Wrath is a characteristic of the one that takes revenge on his enemies. Jesus reprovved the Old Testament's teaching in the basis of "an eye for an eye and tooth for tooth", saying that we should not resist an evil person (Matthew 5:39), whereas Jehovah punishes angrily disobedient persons as well as their descendents, which are innocent from fathers' sins (Psalms 6:1; 38:1 and 2).

Those who are favorable to the wrathful and sanguinary behavior of Jehovah allege that Jesus had also an aggressive conduct in the temple of Jerusalem, for he drove out those who were buying or selling cattle and sheep there. He also over-turned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those who were selling doves (Mark 11:15; John 13 to 15).

However, we must consider that more important than the human reaction of Jesus is the prophetic signify, for through this action it was revealed that the animals' sacrifices from Old Testament are useless and totally obsolete (Hebrews 9:11 to 26). They had been substituted by the precious sacrifice of Jesus through his own blood. Jesus hadn't been moved by an evil felling of wrath in that occasion, but by zeal in relation to the genuine Gospel that he brought from the Father (John 2:17). The indignation from seeing such distortion in the worship to his Father led Jesus to procedure that way, different from his normal peaceful conduct. From Father's share we have always disposition to save, to heal, to forgive and to give another chance, whereas from Jehovah's share there is always disposition to condemn, to punish and to take revenge on those who make him nervous. Therefore, we can affirm that God Father is an universal and merciful God whereas Jehovah is a wrathful tribal god, who restricted his interests in Israel only and whose anger is often burned.

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