



Flee the

Wrath

to Come



Flee the Wrath to come

Philip Wren

Contents

	Page
Introduction	1
Flee the wrath to come	2
What is this wrath?	4
Things God hates	6
Eternal Punishment	11
Prepare the way of the Lord	13
A Saviour who is Christ the Lord	14
The Gospel	15
Salvation	16
How to receive salvation	17
The Future	18
The warning	19
The Return	20
A prayer	21

Scripture quotations unless otherwise indicated are taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © 2018 Trumpet Sounds Publishing
www.trumpetsounds.org.uk
Email: contact@trumpetsounds.org.uk

INTRODUCTION

On the 14th June 2017 the morning news in the UK carried a report of a serious fire in a high rise apartment building in west London. It was thought that over 80 people had died. Those who died were trapped on the upper floors with no means of escape.

Early on it was reported that two factors had contributed to the loss of life. The first factor was the fire alarms. They had not sounded throughout the building and so residents were not alerted to the danger. The second was the advice residents had received. They were told to stay in their flats until rescued by the fire brigade. In the event, the fire took hold of the building so fast, that the Fire Brigade were unable to reach the residents on the upper floors.

Before the fire, residents had made complaints over fire safety, but their complaints had been ignored by the local authority which owned the building. They had been particularly concerned over exposed gas pipes and the single escape stair.

The fire has been described as “a horrific preventable tragedy”.

This booklet warns of another ‘horrific, preventable, tragedy’. A tragedy which will affect not just a few but all who are living and have ever lived. Rarely is the alarm sounded. Frequently the wrong advice is being given. If people listen to this warning they can escape. If it is ignored they will suffer the consequence.

Flee the wrath to come.

“As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I lighted on a certain place where was a den, and laid me down in that place to sleep; and as I slept, I dreamed a dream. I dreamed, and behold, I saw a man clothed with rags, standing in a certain place, with his face from his own house, a book in his hand, and a great burden upon his back. I looked and saw him open the book, and read therein; and as he read, he wept and trembled; and not being able longer to contain, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, “What shall I do?””

And so begins one of the most inspired books outside the Bible. John Bunyan’s, ‘The Pilgrim’s Progress’ is an outstanding work of literature. It is also a repository of Christian truth.

The story begins with the main character, Christian, being tormented by what he reads in the Bible. He goes home and shares his distress with his wife and children. They, with his relatives and neighbours, are hardened against his message. They mock and chide him hoping that this is a passing phase. But the torment of Christian’s soul does not subside. He fears death, because after that comes judgment.

While wandering in the fields Christian meets Evangelist. The story continues; “Then said Evangelist, “If this be thy condition, why standest thou still?” He answered, “Because I know not whither to go.” Then he gave him a parchment roll, and there was written within, “Fly from the wrath to come.””

“The man therefore read it, and looking upon Evangelist very carefully, said, “Whither must I fly?” Then said Evangelist, (pointing with his finger over a very wide field,) “Do you see yonder wicket-gate?” The man said, “No.” Then said the other, “Do you see yonder shining light?” He said, “I think I do.” Then said Evangelist, “Keep that

light in your eye, and go up directly thereto, so shalt thou see the gate; at which, when thou knockest, it shall be told thee what thou shalt do.””

‘The Pilgrim’s Progress’ is the story of Christian’s journey out of the ‘City of Destruction’ toward the ‘Celestial City.’ On his travels he meets many who would gladly discourage or divert him from the way. Eventually he reaches his goal and enters the gates of the city. His journey to that city starts with his being warned that he must ‘fly from the wrath to come’.

The book, first published in 1678, has been continuously in print ever since. It is second only to the Bible as the all-time best seller in the English language.

In past centuries if English speaking people read any book beside the Bible it would have been ‘The Pilgrim’s Progress’. Its message that we need to flee the wrath to come and be resolute in our journey to the celestial city, prepared the ground for the Methodist revival which, in the next century, transformed Britain.

The following quote is from a 19th Century book about that revival. “When people came to meet in the classes, which he [Wesley] had formed in different parts of the country, they were asked but one question, which was, “Do you desire to flee from the wrath to come, and be saved from your sins?” If they said ‘Yes’ and their conduct showed that they were sincere in what they said they were allowed to meet in class and no further questions were asked them.”¹

Bunyan and Wesley saw themselves as rescuing people from the City of Destruction. They warned of the need to escape from the wrath of the final judgement.

Note: 1. ‘A Few Plain Words concerning the Established Church and the Wesleyans’ by a Methodist Minister.

What is this wrath?

All mankind is destined for the same end. Rich or poor, slave or free, male or female, all will die. For the living, death is a mystery. What lies beyond? The Bible, beginning with the Jewish scriptures and carrying on into the New Testament firmly states that death is **not** the end.

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

Conscious existence continues after death. It continues until a time when all mankind will be judged. There will be no escaping this judgment. It will be a day when everything which we have ever done will be revealed. The Bible vividly describes that day.

“And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20: 11 - 15

The alarm needs to be sounded. All whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire. To be caught in a fire with no escape must be a terrifying experience. How thankful we would be if the fire alarm had warned us. How relieved to have been given

enough time to escape. How foolish if we ignored the warning and are burned in the flames.

There are only two destinies for mankind: either eternal life or punishment in the lake of fire. The Day of Judgment described above will eternally divide one from the other. Now is the time, before the judgment takes place, to make sure that we are among those whose names are written in the Book of Life and are not condemned.

An angry God

Is God really so angry with mankind that He will condemn people to such a dreadful punishment? The Bible provides a clear answer to that question which is 'yes'. He is angry, but in mercy has provided a way of escape. The lake of fire is real. It is also a preventable tragedy. God does not want anyone to go there [1 Timothy 2: 4]. If people heed the warning and follow God's advice they will be safe.

The Bible records many warnings which Jesus gave of the danger of being burnt in Hell fire. The word often translated in English Bibles as 'Hell' is Gehenna. At the time Jesus lived, the valley of Gehenna was used as a rubbish dump for Jerusalem. That in itself says a lot about how God regards those whom He has to cast into the lake of fire. Due to their rebellion they have become rubbish, fit only to be burnt up.

Before the time of Jesus, Gehenna was a much more sinister place. The prophet Jeremiah in outrage cried out against the Kingdom of Judah. One of their crimes was to destroy their sons and daughters in the fire in the valley of Gehenna [called Hinnom in the Old Testament]. A practice of which God said it never entered His mind that they could sink so low. Gehenna had become a place of utter revulsion to God.

God hated even the thought of burning babies alive. What else does He hate so much that He will punish the guilty in the lake of fire?

Things God hates

The wicked

“These six things the LORD hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren.” Proverbs 6:16-19

These verses in the Old Testament book of Proverbs describe someone who decent honest people would class as wicked. They are proud, have no regard for the truth, murder those who get in their way and are always scheming evil. They condemn the just and cause strife. Most would agree that it is right and proper that God judges such people. In this life they had no regard for others, why should they be granted eternal life in the next. They betrayed and killed the innocent. Evil men frequently escape justice in this life. If God is just they should suffer under His wrath in the next. There will be no escaping the judgment of God through death.

We agree that God is right to punish the wicked. But are there any other things which God hates?

Hypocrites

This is a sin to which very religious people are prone to fall. They set high standards by which to judge others but are unable to meet those same standards themselves. Jesus Christ had constant battles with the religious leaders of His day. Of them He said: *“For they bind heavy burdens, grievous to be borne, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”* Matthew 23:4

Chapter 23 in Matthew's Gospel contains a withering condemnation of the religious Pharisees. They burden others with petty rules and regulations but don't observe those rules themselves. Instead of guiding people to be right with God, they make them unfit for the kingdom of heaven. Jesus condemned them as liars. He calls them, *"serpents, generation of vipers,"* and adds *"how can ye escape the damnation of Gehenna?"* Matthew 23:33

Being religious does not spare us from judgment. God will judge us very severely if we do not practise what we preach, and fail to preach the revealed truth of God.

The Unforgiving

We can deceive ourselves into thinking that we are right with God when we are not. Another group who are deceived are those who believe that they have been forgiven by God but will not forgive others. Jesus told a story about a man who owed his master a large sum of money. When the man pleaded with his master for more time to pay, the master let him off the debt. The same man then went out and demanded that one of his fellow servants, who owed him a much smaller debt, immediately pay up. When his fellow servant could not pay, the man threw him into prison. The master heard about this and was furious. The lesson is that we cannot expect God to forgive all that we have done wrong if we will not forgive others.

The Violent

God brought the Flood on the earth because mankind had become corrupt. In Genesis 6: 6 we read that *"the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and was grieved in his heart."* Genesis states that the intent of the thoughts of man's heart was continually evil. Later God said that He would destroy the earth because it has become filled

with violence. God hates to see the violence that always follows when men turn away from Him.

This message is reinforced by a later story in the book of Genesis. In this case the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah had become very corrupt. They were rich, proud, idle cities. They had plenty but cared little for the poor and needy. Such was their wickedness that people cried out to God against them. God sends two angels to establish if the reports He heard were true. That night the men of the city gathered with the intent of violently abusing the travellers who had entered their city. The fate of the cities was sealed by the intended violence against the innocent. The next day the cities and all who lived in them were destroyed. The Bible states that these cities stand as an example of punishment to those who would live ungodly lives. [2 Peter 2: 6]

The Idolatrous

The nation of Israel was commanded by God to burn and destroy all idols to false gods. They were not to worship the sun, moon and stars or the gods of the surrounding nations. Under the Old Testament law those who worshipped idols were to be put to death. In the New Testament those who worship false gods are warned that they will not enter the kingdom of heaven. To set up an idol whatever it may be is to insult God. The prophet Jeremiah warned that the worship of other gods had provoked God's anger. He would no longer watch over the nation of Judah but would now turn against them.

Idols can take many forms. Anything which usurps the place of God in our lives can be classed as an idol. Idols do not have to be carved out of wood or stone. They can be false ideas which control our minds or objects for which we crave. There is only one true and living God. He alone is to be worshipped and praised.

The above are just some of the many things which God hates. The wicked, hypocrites, the unforgiving, the violent and idolaters will all come under God's judgment. He hates what they do and will punish them accordingly.

All have sinned

'Not guilty' is the response of many. They will say that they have lived a good life, never seeking to harm another, always helping others. They may not be perfect but have done nothing in life to warrant God's anger. Therefore why should they be condemned?

Jesus Christ, the only perfect man to have ever lived, set very high standards. To the men he said that even looking at a woman in lust is to commit adultery in the heart. To emphasise how serious this is He went on to say pluck out your eye. Better to lose an eye than be cast into hell. Today many men are addicted to online pornography. There are few who can say with righteous Job that they have made a covenant with their eyes not to look at a young woman in this way [Job 31: 1].

Then there is murder. No, we have never killed anyone but Jesus challenged his listeners, have they ever thought such things against another? In the sight of God the thoughts put us in danger of coming under His judgment. The root from which such thoughts come is, that most deadly of sins, pride. It is due to our own pride that we judge and condemn others. Throughout history the leading Christian teachers have recognised that pride leads to destruction.

A very serious sin in the sight of God is to cause others to stumble. Jesus said that it would be better for such a person to have a millstone hung around their neck and be thrown into the sea. There are many ways in which we can destroy another's trust in God. Teaching children that there is no God, acting hypocritically, encouraging others to join us

in our sin, are some causes of stumbling. If we are guilty of this our fate will be much worse than being loaded down with weights and thrown overboard to be drowned at sea. Causing others to stumble will consign us to the lake of fire.

On the Day of Judgment the books will be opened. Everything will be revealed. Jesus said, *"For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have spoken in the dark will be heard in the light, and whatever you have spoken in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops."* Luke 12: 2 – 3.

As we go through the Bible any person who is honest with themselves recognises that in some way or other they have fallen short of what God requires. The Bible reveals that on the Day of Judgment all will be found guilty, *"all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."* Romans 3: 23.

If we are accused of a crime and have to appear in a court of law our own opinion regarding guilt or innocence becomes irrelevant. We may believe that we are innocent but it is the judge who will decide. Sometimes, in our imperfect human courts, mistakes are made. The judge has to make an assessment based on the evidence available.

In God's court there will be no mistakes. Everything you have ever thought, said and done is known to Him and written down in the books.

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy." Psalm 103: 8. The character of God is to be merciful and slow to anger. The Bible testifies to God's mercy. It also testifies that times come when He can no longer delay his anger. The sins He hates cannot go unpunished.

Punishment

“I [God] will punish this world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and lay low the haughtiness of the tyrants.” Isaiah 13: 11

Jesus said, *“do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul, but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both body and soul in Gehenna.”* Matthew 10: 28. Fire consumes and destroys. Is Jesus saying that those not found worthy to receive eternal life will be thrown into the rubbish dump fire of hell and quickly destroyed? That in itself would be a terrible end but this is not all He said on the matter.

One day the religious hierarchy, who according to the Bible, were lovers of money, were mocking Jesus. So He told them a story about a rich man and a poor man. During his life the rich man did not have any compassion toward the poor man. The poor man would have been glad to receive even the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table, but the rich man did nothing to help him. In time both the rich man and the poor man died. On his death the rich man goes to Hades and suffers conscious torment [Luke 16: 19 – 31]. It may be a parable but it warns of a truth that after death there is conscious torment, from which there is no escape, for the guilty.

Jesus told another parable about sheep being divided from goats. In this parable the goats represent people who refused to show compassion to Christ’s brethren. The goats are condemned for their hardness of heart. To them Jesus says, *“Depart from Me you cursed into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”* Matthew 25: 41. Those who in this life join the Devil’s rebellion against God will share the same fate.

In the final book of the Bible we read, *“the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”* Revelation 20: 10.

The beast and false prophet are two men who lead a rebellion against God at the end of this present age. At the time that the devil joins them they have already been confined to the lake of fire for 1000 years but not destroyed.

The lake of fire is more than a place of destruction. It is where angels and men are punished for their sin. As with the rich man in the parable there will be conscious torment, from which there is no escape, for all who are sent there.

Some may want to argue with God. Why couldn't He have found another way? Is it really necessary for mankind however guilty to have to suffer in Hell? Why not send people into oblivion? Why create men in the first place if they have to be punished in this way?

It is not for us to argue. As mere human beings we cannot know the mind of God. *““My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways”, says the Lord.”* Isaiah 55: 8

In His divine wisdom this is the way it has to be. At great cost to Himself God has provided a way of escape from this judgment. Jesus suffered on our behalf. His pain and suffering was so great we can be sure that if there was another way the Father and the Son would have taken it.

The Bible encourages us that *“whoever believes in Him [Jesus] will not perish.”* [John 3: 16]. We need to trust what God has revealed and take the way of escape that in mercy He has given.

Prepare the way of the Lord

The nation of Israel failed, over and over, to follow God and obey His laws. For their sins they were exiled from the land which God had promised them. The Law, far from saving them, condemned them. No one was able to live up to the standards set. Six hundred years before the birth of Jesus Christ, God gave a prophecy to the prophet Jeremiah. God revealed that there would come a time when He would put the law in people's minds and write it on their hearts. He would change people's nature so that they were able to keep His laws.

Over time other prophets received similar revelations. They looked forward to the coming of a Saviour, one who the Jews called the Messiah.

Then there was silence. For centuries there was no word from the Lord. Suddenly a new prophet appeared. He lived in the wilderness and brought the message, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."* Matthew 3: 2. He was wild in his appearance and outspoken, both in condemning sin and teaching what is right. When the religious hierarchy came to find out what was going on he denounced them, *"Brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come."* Matthew 3: 7. When asked who he was, he said, *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord."* Matthew 3: 3.

This prophet is known to us by the name John the Baptist. He was sent by God to prepare the way for Jesus Christ. Jesus would be the Saviour who would bring about a change in peoples nature if they trusted Him. But John also warned that, *"His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."* Matthew 3: 12. Jesus will come as both Saviour and judge.

A Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

We come to one of the best known of all stories, the birth of Jesus Christ. It is celebrated by billions around the world. The story is so familiar that the impact of what happened all those centuries ago is often lost. The angels who announced His birth understood. God had at last intervened to save mankind. Jesus Christ, the Saviour, is the pivotal person in all history.

We have dwelt on the punishment for all who rebel against the authority of God. That punishment is the lake of fire in which all whose names are not written in the Book of Life are tormented. But as we have written earlier, the lake of fire is a preventable tragedy. The Bible assures us that God does not want to send anyone there [2 Peter 3: 9]. That is the reason He sent His beloved Son into the world. Jesus came to provide a way of escape.

One of the best known verses in the Bible reads, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that he who believes on Him should not perish but have eternal life."* John 3: 16. This is the consistent teaching of the New Testament.

Jesus Christ was not merely a good man, a wise teacher or a prophet. He was unique among men by being both fully man and fully God. His tortuous death on a cross was not a terrible accident. It was the reason that He came to this earth. From before the earth was created the Son had agreed with the Father that He would come into this world. He would take on Himself the penalty for our sin. He paid that price so that we might be forgiven. His resurrection from the dead is proof that the sacrifice has been accepted. Because He lives those who believe on Him will also live. Those who trust in Jesus Christ have no need to fear death.

The Gospel

This is what Christians call ‘the gospel’. The glorious good news that there is a way of escape. The horrific tragedy can be prevented. We who have fallen so far short of God’s standards can be forgiven. Our rightly deserved punishment has been taken by another.

Imagine a criminal who is found guilty by a court. The judge, in bringing justice, sentences him to a long period in prison. The criminal knows that he has done wrong and that the sentence is just. How would that criminal feel if the judge then said that he could go free? He, the judge, would go to prison and serve the criminal’s sentence on his behalf.

That unlikely situation is the first part of the good news. In human terms it would never happen. Who would take on the punishment for a convicted criminal? But that is what God has done for each of us. On the Day of Judgement all those whose names are written in the Book of Life will receive a pardon. They will not be condemned because the Judge has taken on Himself their punishment.

But why has the judge taken on Himself the punishment for our sin? The simple answer is; He loves us. Love is the reason that Jesus Christ became a man and took our punishment.

Do not misunderstand love. Because God loves us does not mean that He will always forgive us. That is not how it works. The alarm is being sounded. The way of escape is now open. Jesus warned that there will come a time when the door is closed. Once that time has come there will no longer be a way out. Just as by ignoring a fire alarm we will be caught in the fire, so ignoring the Bible’s warning will lead to judgment. Beyond this life there is no second chance.

Salvation

Those who are pardoned are saved from the lake of fire. The Bible calls this pardon, salvation.

When are we saved?

Are we saved once we are good enough? Do we need to make ourselves a better person and then God will forgive us? The answer is no. We are not saved when we are good enough but saved to be made good enough.

There is more to the story about the judge who took on himself the criminals' punishment. The judge not only served the time in prison, he also spends time with the criminal helping him to reform. The second part of the good news is that Jesus will bring about a change in us. Once we have put our trust in Jesus, He will send the Holy Spirit into our lives. True Christianity is allowing the Holy Spirit to remould us from the inside out.

According to the promise given through the prophet Jeremiah, God will put the law into our minds and write it on our hearts. He will change our nature so that we are able to obey Him. As Christians we are a work in progress. Not as yet perfect, but the Bible promises that, *"He who has begun a good work in in you will complete it...."* Philippians 1: 6. One day we will be like Jesus.

The Bible also teaches that we are, *"to be transformed by the renewing of our minds."* Romans 12: 2. It all starts in the mind. Our attitude to other people will change. We become more forgiving, because God has forgiven us, more tolerant because God has been long suffering toward our failures, more compassionate because Jesus showed compassion to many.

How do we receive salvation?

Salvation is a work of God in a person's heart. The work of the Holy Spirit sent by God is to teach and change us. The Holy Spirit will convict us that we need to flee the wrath to come and be saved from our sin. When we have that conviction there are steps to be taken if we are to receive God's pardon.

Repent

The first step is to repent. This starts with recognising that we have fallen far short of the glory of God. We must confess our failure before God and be sorry that we have offended Him in so many ways.

Believe

The second step is to believe that Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin. This is faith. It trusts God, that He is who He says He is and can do what He says He can do.

Be baptised

God wants us to make an outward confession of our new found faith in Him. Believer's baptism is the way set out in the Bible. Baptism by immersion in water is symbolic both of a complete cleansing from past sin and also the ending of our old life and beginning a new life in Christ.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is already at work in a person's life to bring them to the knowledge that they are a sinner. Having repented, come to faith and been baptised, the new believer must allow the Holy Spirit to come into their life in a new way. The Holy Spirit teaches and guides the follower of Christ. A primary way of teaching us is through our study of God's word, the Bible. As He teaches us, so we must trust and obey Him.

The Future

That is not the end of the good news. Going back to the story of the judge, he goes a step further. He took on himself the criminal's punishment and then helped the criminal to reform. The judge then says to the criminal that he can come home with him. Home is a wonderful house in which he and countless other reformed criminals can live in the most beautiful surroundings.

This is the third part of the good news. Having taken on our punishment and come into our lives to change us, Jesus invites us to come and live with Him forever.

The last two chapters of the Bible describe the place which Jesus is preparing in highly symbolic language. The symbolism is necessary because words fail to convey the wonder of all that God has in store for those who obey Him. It will be a perfect world in which there will be no more tears, no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain. All that corrupted our present world will be excluded.

This new heaven and new earth will be our home. To live in this new material world we will be given new bodies which are immortal. Mankind was created to look after the material creation. That will be our function throughout eternity. Work, which is in harmony with the will of God, will be an everlasting pleasure.

Jesus Christ created the whole material world. As the Bible says all things were made through Him. How exciting to spend eternity with the Creator. How fascinating to learn how things came into existence and to see more and more wonders of His creative power. The enjoyment of all God has made and is to make will be never ending.

The Return

This booklet has focused on the judgement which will decide each individual's final destiny. The Bible warns that before that time comes there will be an outpouring of God's wrath on this world. It will be the punishment of a world which has demonstrated its rejection of Christ by its persecution of His followers.

Jesus commissioned His disciples to take the good news of salvation into all the world. As a result, *"a great multitude which no one could number out of all nations tribes, peoples and tongues."* will be gathered out of the nations, [Revelation 7: 9].

But the world as a whole will reject the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus when speaking about the end of the age said that *"you will be hated by all nations for my names sake."* Matthew 24: 9.

"He will come to judge the living and the dead," [Apostle's Creed]. One day Jesus Christ will return as judge.

Most will ridicule the warnings of judgment contained in this booklet. Two thousand years ago Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote of this time, *"knowing this first that in the last days scoffers will come and saying where is the promise of His coming?"* 2 Peter 3: 3, 4.

To the astonishment of the world Jesus will come back. Then the world will know the truth. Jesus Christ is the judge. *"the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come and who is able to stand?"* Revelation 6: 15 – 17.

The Warning

In the tragic fire, which destroyed the apartment building in West London, it was said that the fire alarms were not heard throughout the building. Many residents were not warned of the danger. Other residents followed the wrong advice which told them to stay in their homes.

This booklet sounds the alarm. Don't ignore it and be caught in the eternal punishment of the lake of fire. Once consigned to that place, it is final. There is no restoration or way of escape.

Don't stay put and leave it too late to escape. There is a way of escape which leads to eternal life.

Jesus said to his disciples that He was going away. While away He would prepare a new home for them. One day He would come back and take His followers to that place.

There are signs that the day of Jesus' return is drawing near.

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. John brought a message of repentance and a warning to 'flee the wrath to come'.

With the prospect that Jesus will soon return it is time to prepare the way. Like John we call on everyone to 'flee the wrath to come and be saved from their sin.'

A Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life. I ask you to forgive me and help me from now on to turn away from everything which is wrong. Thank you that you died on the cross to take on yourself the punishment for my sin. Come into my life and fill me with your Holy Spirit and never leave me. Thank you Lord Jesus.

To pray this prayer is the start of a journey. You will be joining a vast company who over the last 2000 years have travelled that path.

Jesus did not pretend that it would be easy. He said, *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who go by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* Matthew 7: 13, 14. Jesus also warned that, *“I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”* John 15: 19.

But the destination is glorious. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“For I do not consider that the sufferings of the present time are worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us.”* Romans 8: 18. We follow those who have gone before us on that journey to the resurrection life prepared by God for us.

To go on in the Christian Life seek to meet with other Christians who are fleeing the wrath to come. Christians meet together to worship God, to pray, to study and learn from God’s word the Bible and to encourage each other. In Christian fellowship we find the strength to overcome temptation and the opposition of the world. We look forward in hope to all that God has prepared for those who trust Him.

Trumpet Sounds has for more than 30 years published a quarterly newsletter commenting on the significance of world events in the light of Bible prophecy. The newsletter is available free of charge either by email or printed copy by post. To request a regular copy please use the contact email at the bottom of the page.

We pray that any who read this book who have not already trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ will be challenged to make that commitment. Further help is available from the email address below:

For additional copies of this book, a regular copy of the newsletter or help in becoming a Christian contact Trumpet Sounds Publishing,
email: contact@trumpetsounds.org.uk
www.trumpetsounds.org.uk

What comes after death?

Is it oblivion or conscious existence?

Jesus Christ taught that after death comes judgment. He will be the judge consigning mankind to one of two destinies. Either we will enter eternal life and live with Him for ever or be thrown into the lake of fire suffering torment and destruction.

This booklet warns that to suffer the wrath of God and be thrown into the lake of fire is a horrific but preventable, tragedy'.

It is a tragedy which will affect not just a few but all who are living and have ever lived. Rarely is the alarm sounded. Frequently the wrong advice is being given.

God does not want any to suffer the tragedy of the lake of fire. In mercy He has provided a way of escape. But be warned, if we do not take that way of escape we will suffer the consequences.