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Soil inventory of Capps Forestland, Westminster, SC

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1) Edwards develops three extended metaphors (comparisons) to provide the image of an angry God and sinners headed for destruction. Identify the extended metaphors from the selection as well as the figures of speech from which they are developed. A) The first metaphor is “The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present.” He is comparing God’s wrath to flood waters that are dammed. This is a simile. B) The second metaphor is “The bow of God’s wrath is bent and the arrow made ready on the string.” He is comparing God’s wrath to a bow and arrow. This is a metaphor. C) The third metaphor is “The God that holds you over the pit of hell, much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over the fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked: his wrath burns towards you like fire.” He compares God’s wrath to being burned by fire. This is a simile.

2) Edwards’ sermons were powerful to the congregations and readers of his time. (a) What can you deduce about the average member of his congregation? (b) How effective do you think his sermons would be today? (a) I deduce that Edwards’ congregations saw God as very angry and feared him very much. (b) I think his sermons would be very effective to a person that has been a Christian for a long time. I do not think he would draw many new comers.

3) Do you feel that Edwards enjoyed picturing a God of wrath? If so, why would he be less interested in depicting a God of love? Can you see any rhetorical advantages in either portrait? Explain. I am not sure he enjoyed it, but I think he felt that a God of wrath reached his congregations better than a loving God would have. The rhetorical
advantages in a wrathful God are that people would fear him and obey his word from that fear. The rhetorical advantages of a loving God are that people would feel safe and loved and would obey his word because they like being safe and loved.

4) Judging from your experiences, has the image of the churchman changed? Could a minister today judge a congregation in Edwards’ terms? Why or why not? The image of the churchman has changed today. I think a minister today could judge a congregation in Edwards’ terms, but not a younger one. Older people would know that God is both wrathful and loving. Younger people, I think, would need to get to know about a loving God before they were introduced to the God of wrath.

1) What adjectives might best describe Paine’s tone in this selection? Find specific words and ideas in the selection to support your choices. (a) Resolve. “The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crises, shrink from the service of their country.” (b) Determination. “Tyranny, like hell, is not easily overcome.” (c) Faith. “…that God almighty will not give up a people to the military destruction, or leave them unsupportedly to perish, who have so earnestly and so repeatedly sought to avoid the calamities of war, by every decent method which wisdom could invent.” (d) Patriotism. “The heart