

GOD, ANGER OF

- Is punitive and vindicatory in reaction,
- legitimate and
- controlled,
- yet awesomely emphatic

Why?

God the righteous judge to unrighteousness in his human creatures.

- Up to the present, the expression of God's anger and wrath has had the purpose of drawing sinners to repentance and conversion – Salvation
- When we repent – he gives us grace
- However, we need not abuse this dispensation of grace
- A time will come when it will be spent
- This grace will not be the case at the final judgment.

Salvation is today

Salvation is reconciliation with God – who threw us out of his presence in the beginning – Eden

2 Cor 5:16-21

- How God reconciled us to Himself – through Christ
- Making us acceptable to Him
- Not counting our sins against us – but cancelling them when they repented
- And after which he committed the message/ministry of reconciliation to us
- So that after being reconciled to God, we too may become Ambassadors for Christ
- Pleading with others on Christ's behalf – so they too can be reconciled to God

1 Cor 6:1-2 AMP

Working together with Him, we strongly urge you not to receive God's grace in vain [by turning away from sound doctrine and His merciful kindness].² For He says,

"AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME (the time of grace) I LISTENED TO YOU, AND I HELPED YOU ON THE DAY OF SALVATION."

Behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"—

THE NATURE OF GOD'S ANGER

1. It is fearsome

Na 1:6 AMP

*Who can stand before His indignation [His great wrath]?
And who can stand up and endure the fierceness of His anger?
His wrath is poured out like fire
And the rocks are destroyed by Him.*

Joshua 7:26

Burning anger – in the valley of Achor

2. It is reluctant and short-lived

Ex 34 – A second chance to Israel

- After turning away from waiting on God in Exod 32
- God decides to destroy Israel – because they had turned aside quickly from the way He had commanded them.
- He called them stiff-necked – they are stubborn. Hard headed

Ex 32:10

- He is so incensed and Tells Moses to let Him alone
- Give His anger free reign
- So the His wrath may wax hot - burst forth into flames and incinerate them
- Then he promises to start afresh with Moses

Moses would not take that

Vs 11-13 He instead intercedes for them

- Reminds God that the Egyptians would rejoice of this decision
- Reminded him of His covenant of Abraham – Isaac and Jacob
- Whom he promised to multiply their seed as the stars of heaven

Ex. 32:14

And GOD did think twice. He relented, he repented of the evil
He decided not to do the evil he had threatened against his people.

Ex 34 – he asks Moses to cut out two stones like the originals and engrave the same words that were on the tablets which he smashed

- Asks him to meet him on top of mount Sinai the following morning
- Not a soul to go with him
- Clear the whole mountain of people
- Not even an animal – to graze in front of the mountain
- Moses does as was told and ascends the mountain

Vs 6: the Lord passes before him

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

Isa 54:7-8 MSG

our Redeemer GOD says:

"I left you, but only for a moment.

Now, with enormous compassion, I'm bringing you back.

In an outburst of anger I turned my back on you—

but only for a moment.

It's with lasting love

that I'm tenderly caring for you.

- His anger is short-lived

3. God's anger is consistent with his righteous and merciful character

Ps 7:11

God is a righteous judge,

And a God who is indignant every day.

Hab 3:2

- In his wrath he remembers mercy – because he is a compassionate and loving God
- Even in his anger – he cannot forget to be gracious
- His anger cannot shut up his compassion

4. God's anger fulfils God's purposes

Jer 23:20

The anger of the LORD will not turn back

Until He has set in motion and accomplished the thoughts and intentions of His heart;

In the last days you will clearly understand it.

- This speaks of his judgement on sin
- Before his blessings can be experienced – he must judge sin
- Because of His nature of being a merciful God – this judgement is usually followed by the blessing of restoration
- God promised that after he has judged the world of its sins
- He will restore all Israel to Himself

Jeremiah 30:22

And you shall be my people, and I will be your God."

Jer 31:33

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 24:7

I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

THE CAUSES OF GOD'S ANGER

1. Idolatry and unbelief

The golden calf

Ex 32:8-10

Nu 25:3

So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

1Ki 14:9

but you have done evil above all who were before you and have gone and made for yourself other gods and metal images, provoking me to anger, and have cast me behind your back,

Ahab proved God's anger

1 Ki. 16:32-33

He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

Ahaziah son of Ahab

1 Ki.22:52-53

He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and in the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin. He served Baal and worshiped him and provoked the LORD, the God of Israel, to anger in every way that his father had done.

Josiah reverses all this – removing all the shrines

2Ki 23:19

And Josiah removed all the shrines also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which kings of Israel had made, provoking the LORD to anger. He did to them according to all that he had done at Bethel.

2. Disobedience and disloyalty

Jos 7:1 Achan

But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel.

2 Kings 22

In the process of renovating **the temple** a copy of **the Book of the Law** (either the Book of Deut. or, more likely, the entire Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible) was **found**

- Its brought and red before King Josiah

Vs. 11 When he heard the words of the Book of the Law – he tore his clothes

Vs 12 -13

And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."

Ps 106:29

they provoked the LORD to anger with their deeds, and a plague broke out among them.

Eph 5:6

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

3. Ungodly living

God's judgment against the ungodly is a sign of his anger against actions that contradict his righteous character and purposes

2Ti 3:1-9

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

Jude 14-16

It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him." These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.

4. Complaints against, and opposition to, God's purposes

Nu 11:1

And the people complained in the hearing of the LORD about their misfortunes, and when the LORD heard it, his anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp.

Nu 21:5 – Fiery serpents

And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

5. The rejection of God's servants

Zec 7:12

They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law and the words that the LORD of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the LORD of hosts.

Mt 21:33-41 – Parable of the tenants

“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

- Talking about Israel – as a nation – who had treated God’s messengers and prophets badly
- Failing to realize that they as a nation where the vineyard and the prophets were the servants in whose hands God had committed the care of the vine

Ac 7:35-37 – rejection of Moses – saying who made you ruler and a judge?

- Because of a mistake he had made
- They rejected him as a murderer
- Yet God had not rejected him
- God still visited this murderer – in the burning bush – and sent him as both ruler and redeemer to the same people who had rejected him
- He is the one who led them through the Red sea and the wilderness for 40 years

God reveals his anger

- **In present times Ro 1:18**

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

- **On a future “day of wrath” which is anticipated**

Ro 2:5-10 – for the impenitent

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. to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

See also Isa 13:9,13; Eze 7:19; Zep 1:15,18; 2:2

Home work

THE CONSEQUENCES OF GOD'S ANGER

God allows those who reject righteousness to remain in their sin

Ro 1:18-32 See also **1Ki 14:16; 2Ch 12:5; Ne 9:28; Isa 54:7-8; Jer 7:27-29; 12:7-8**

Punishment will be experienced by rebellious people

Dt 8:19

See also **Isa 59:18; Jer 21:14;**

Mt 18:34-35 – the unforgiving servant

And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Mat 25:28-30 – parable of the talents

And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Punishment of death – spiritual death

Ro.6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.