

Is It Wrong To Be ANGRY ?

The word 'anger' originated from words in other languages that meant 'to choke, strangle, or vex to strain or press together to squeeze.'

The **primary definition** of the word 'anger' is
'a violent passion of the mind excited by a real -- or supposed -- injury usually accompanied with a purpose of taking vengeance, to obtain satisfaction from the offending party.'

Anger may be excited by some cruelty injustice or oppression. It may be generated by gross absurdity in others, especially in controversy or discussion.

Anger may be inflamed till it rises to RAGE -- when one has temporary delusions ---- which is a wild, irregular wandering state of mind, which does NOT correspond with the truth.

Sometimes high fever makes people delirious. Being angry is sometimes referred to as 'loosing your cool' or 'loosing your temper' or 'loosing your head,' because at that moment, a person is not thinking (nor acting) properly.

Anger can provoke, inflame, or bring resentment.

Anger is a natural emotion, but it should be controlled.

Was God Ever Angry ?

Some people have the idea that God could never be angry, because He is holy. But have they never heard of 'righteous indignation?'

Psa. 7:11 *God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*

That verse clearly tells us that God is DAILY angry an 'on-going' thing!

In 'time past' God used the method of FIRE as judgment for His anger:

Num. 11:1-2 *And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.*

2 And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

God got angry with a prophet named Balaam, when he was going on his way to curse Israel:

Num. 22:22 *And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him.*

23 And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way.

24 But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side.

25 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.

26 And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

27 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.

28 And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?

29 And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.

30 And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.

31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.

32 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me:

33 And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.

34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again.

Again, we read in 'time past' that time, when God was angry, He used an animal to talk to his prophet. The prophet was also angry, thinking his ass was just stubborn.

When Israel linked up with idols, God was so angry, that He had Moses to kill the whoring people:

Num. 25:1-5 *And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.*

2 And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

3 And Israel joined himself unto Baalpeor: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel.

4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away from Israel.

5 And Moses said unto the judges of Israel, Slay ye every one his men that were joined unto Baalpeor.

God's anger was described in verse 4, as 'fierce.'

Fierce means 'with great force and violence with fury.'

Next, we see that God sentenced Israel to 40 years of 'jail-time' wandering in the wilderness not because He was 'happy' with them:

Num. 32:13 *And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.*

God got so angry with Israel that He threatened to kill them for serving idols:

Deut. 7:4 *For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.*

.... and God DID destroy the traitors in Israel. Notice the wrath of God's anger in this next passage in Deut. chapter 29, verses 18-28:

Deut. 29:18-28 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;

19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst:

20 The LORD will not spare him,
but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man,
and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him,
and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.

21 And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law:

22 So that the generation to come of your children that shall rise up after you, and the stranger that shall come from a far land, shall say, when they see the plagues of that land, and the sicknesses which the LORD hath laid upon it;

23 And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Ad-mah, and Ze-bo-im, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath:

24 Even all nations shall say, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this land? what meaneth the heat of this great anger?

25 Then men shall say, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them forth out of the land of Egypt:

26 For they went and served other gods, and worshipped them, gods whom they knew not, and whom he had not given unto them:

27 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land,
to bring upon it all the curses that are written in this book:

28 And the LORD rooted them out of their land in anger, and in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land, as it is this day.

Have you ever 'got hot?' God surely got hot:

Judges 2:14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel,
and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them,
and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about,
so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.

God even killed a man for simply 'touching' the sacred Ark of the Covenant (which He had given plain instructions NOT to ever touch):

1 Chron. 13:10 *And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God.*

Although the Old Testament records many accounts of God's anger, this next verse says that God is really very patient, actually SLOW to anger:

Nehemiah 9:17 *And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.*

God does, in fact, avenge His anger but He is also merciful:

Psa. 30:5 *For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.*

Many times God had good reason to express His anger, but instead He gave mercy to His creation of flesh:

Psa. 78:31-39 *The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel.*

32 For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.

33 Therefore their days did he consume in vanity, and their years in trouble.

34 When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God.

35 And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer.

36 Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues.

37 For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant.

*38 But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: **yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.***

39 For he remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.

Evil spirits were sent as a curse from God when He was angry:

Psa. 78:49 *He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them.*

Israel could surely take great comfort, knowing that God is not hasty, nor quick to anger. They had much cause to be thankful to the Lord:

Psa. 103:8-14 *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Psa. 145:8-9 *The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.*

9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

Now, let's look at some scriptures to see 'GOD'S COMING ANGER'

When Jesus Christ returns to the earth, He'll be ANGRY. He's coming to judge and make WAR:

Isa 13:9-13 *Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.*

10 For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

11 And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.

12 I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.

13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

The 'Lord's Day' is not 'Sunday' as many people say ---- rather the Lord's Day is the 'Day of His ANGER.' That's what we just read in verse 13.

More prophecy of the second coming of Christ to the earth is in Isa. chapter 30:

Isa 30:27 *Behold, the name of the LORD cometh from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire:*

Isa 30:30 *And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.*

Quite obviously, when Jesus returns to earth, it will be a dreadful day:

Isa 66:15-16 *For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.*

16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Here is an example of 'MOSES' ANGER'

When Moses and Joshua came down from the mountain (where God gave Moses the 10 Commandments) --- they found the Israelites naked (vs. 25) having a wild party. Moses gave the Lord's word and the Levites killed 3,000 men that day:

Exo. 32:17-20 *And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.*

18 And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.

19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

20 And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

Maybe this is why we get upset when our family members or friends support other doctrines rather than the message of grace and truth! We ought not kill them (like God told Moses to do), but we should get angry about it!

As we consider the subject of 'ANGER'

**Let us remember that the scriptures warn
of the FOLLY of a QUICK TEMPER !**

1 Kings 10:23-24 So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom.

24 And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart.

Here we'll read some 'words of WISDOM' from 'the Preacher':

Ecc. 7:9 *Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry:
for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*

It is NOT smart to lose your temper:

Prov. 14:17 *He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly:
and a man of wicked devices is hated.*

'Foolish' means 'to be silly unwise or absurd.'

Do you ever want to start a fight? Do you ever wear a 'chip on your shoulder'? If you 'spout off with anger' you'll end up in a mess:

Prov. 29:22 *An angry man stirreth up strife,
and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.*

You have a choice here. There is a remedy to anger. You can calm it by soothing words ---- OR ---- you can 'fuel the fire' with painful, cutting remarks:

Prov. 15:1 *A soft answer turneth away wrath:
but grievous words stir up anger.*

When you think of a 'mighty man' does a 'great soldier, hero, or warrior' come to your mind? God says it is better to CONTROL YOUR-SELF than to conquer a city:

Prov. 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty;
and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

It is a wise thing --- to 'delay' our anger:

Prov. 19:11 *The discretion of a man deferreth his anger;
and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*

'Discretion' means 'prudence or knowledge and discernment
which enables a person to judge critically and justly
of what is correct and proper,
.... united with caution.'

We've been reading about 'men' in general but it also includes 'women':

Prov. 21:19 *It is better to dwell in the wilderness,
than with a contentious and an angry woman.*

Living in the wilderness would certainly be rough ---- but an angry woman who argues about everything is even worse than that!

Now, let's move into the GOSPELS records of ANGER:

Jesus taught:

Matt 5:22

*But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother **without a cause**
shall be in danger of the judgment:
and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council:
but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*

The word 'Raca' means 'vain, empty, and worthless.' It is only found in this one verse. The Jews used it as a word of contempt. It is derived from a root meaning 'to spit.'

Give particular notice to the phrase '**without a cause**' ---- because that phrase is completely MISSING from corrupted versions, like the NIV, NASB, and The Living Bible.

When it is omitted, then it makes Jesus GUILTY as a sinner, because in this next passage we'll read, verse 5 shows that Jesus got angry:

Mark 3:1-5 *And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand.*

2 And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him.

3 And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth.

4 And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace.

*5 And when he had looked round about on them **with anger**, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.*

That was an example of 'our FAITHFUL' K.J.V. ---- showing that Jesus had just cause to be angry.

Here's another account when Jesus expressed Himself with good reason:

Mark 11:15-17 *And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;*

16 And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.

17 And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.

John 2:13-17 *And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,*

14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:

15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;

16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.

17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

Finally, we'll examine our subject of 'ANGER' under GRACE:

Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, writing in the Dispensation of the Grace of God, gives instructions to our leaders NOT to have a FAST temper. They need a 'cool, level head.' When people get angry, they don't usually think clearly and fairly about a situation:

Titus 1:7 *For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;*

I hope you noticed that it did NOT say --- not to be angry --- but it said --- not to be SOON angry.

Again, we find a similar warning in Paul's epistle to the Ephesian church, except here we are specifically told to BE angry --- just don't lose control of yourself to let it lead you to sin:

Eph 4:26 *Be ye angry,
and sin not:
let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*

Also, notice there, that although it is OKAY to BE angry, we are not supposed to BE that way very long. We need to get rid of our anger 'before dark' so we don't carry it into the next day. We need a 'fresh slate' for each morning.

So, don't go to bed MAD!

On down a few verses, God tells us how to behave ourselves:

Eph 4:31-32 *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:*

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

He tells us again in the letter to the Colossian church:

Col 3:8 *But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

God tells the Dads not to stir up wrath in their children:

Col 3:21 *Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

Physical injury would obviously be included, but 'provoking' --- by dictionary definition --- is also caused by offensive words.

Surely, you've heard the old saying 'Sticks and stones may break my bones,
but words will never hurt me.'

Well, words CAN hurt and we fathers ought to be careful of our words.

To 'discourage' means 'to depress of hope to deprive of confidence
to dis-hearten to reject.'

It should be LOVE that MOTIVATES us to speak the truth:

Eph 4:15 *But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things,
which is the head, even Christ:*

Rather than be 'ear-ticklers' ... we ought to care for SOULS enough to ask people about their eternal destiny, and instead of worrying about rubbing against their sinful flesh, give them the gospel --- that Christ died for their sins, and rose again, and they can be saved if they believe!

2 Cor. 5:14-15 *For the love of Christ constraineth us;
because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:
15 And that he died for all,
that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves,
but unto him which died for them, and rose again.*

May each of us be moved to a balance of action,
both to 'justified' anger and to defending the truth.

This is David Dowell, saying "Think About It!"