

God's Anger is Fierce

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God's anger is fierce and endures long (Nu. 25:4; 32:13; Jer. 17:4).

God's anger is slow and endures but for a minute (Ps. 30:5; 103:8).

Almighty God warned those who transgress His law and commandments that His Angel would not take their actions lightly,

Behold. I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. ²¹Beware of him and obey his voice; do not provoke him, **for he will not pardon your transgressions**; for My name is in him (Ex. 23:20-21; cf. Isa. 9:6; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

This Angel of Almighty God later became known as Jesus Christ,

When we (ancient Israel) cried out to the Lord, He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt... (Nu. 20:16a; cf. Ex. 3:2; 14:19; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Then the Angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, 'I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers'; and I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you.'² And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. Why have you done this? (Jgs. 2:1-2).

Moreover, brethren, I (Paul) do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ²all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³**all ate the same spiritual food** (cf. Ex. 16:4, 15, 35), ⁴**and all drank the same spiritual drink** (cf. Ex. 17:6). **For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ** (1Cor. 10:1-4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

And **the Angel of God**, who went before the camp of Israel, **moved and went behind them** (followed them; cf. 1Cor. 10:4); and **the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them** (Ex. 14:19; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Then the (Angel of the) **Lord came down in the pillar of cloud** (cf. Ex. 14:19) and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam. And they both went forward (Nu. 12:5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

When anger is expressed by any spirit-being in scripture, it is imperative to identify who it is. Sometimes it is not directly attributable to Almighty God. Although Jesus Christ perfectly represented his heavenly Father, he still expressed his own emotions including anger. When he became a flesh and blood human being, he directed his anger at those who abused their position or authority as well as those who sinned willfully,

And Jesus went into the temple and cast out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the chairs of those who were selling doves. ¹³And he said to them, “It has been written, ‘**My house shall be called a house of prayer**’; but you make it a ‘**den of thieves**’” (Mt. 21:12-13; RNT; cf. Mk. 11:15).

There are two “Lords” mentioned in the first scripture that is used to discredit the word of Almighty God. One of these “Lords” told Moses what to do, so that the other Lord would pardon the sins of the nation of Israel,

Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Take all the leaders of the people and hang the offenders before the Lord, out in the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may turn away from Israel (Nu. 25:4).

Unfortunately, the translators of the Old Testament scriptures did not want to use, what they thought was, Almighty God’s name *Yahovah*. Therefore, they would substitute *Adoni* which can hide the real identity of a spirit-being in the narrative. Once these Hebrew words are translated into the English word *Lord*, it is often difficult to distinguish which spirit-being is speaking,

The Lord said to my Lord ... (Ps. 110:1a).

It is only by examining the context of a scripture that various individuals can be identified,

The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool’ (Ps. 110:1).

Because Jesus Christ is now seated at his Father’s right side (cf. Mk. 16:19; Lk. 22:69; Ac. 7:55-56; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1), it can be deduced that the first “Lord” mentioned above is Almighty God, while the second “Lord” would be Jesus Christ. As Jesus Christ is a separate being from his heavenly Father, he expresses his own anger at unrighteous behavior,

But woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you block the kingdom of the heavens before men, for you do not enter in, nor do you allow those who are entering to enter (Mt. 23:13 ff.; RNT; cf. Jn. 8:44).

Whether it is Almighty God or one of His faithful servants, anger at sinful behavior ends once repentance occurs,

Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath (anger) from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal (for what is righteous according to God’s law and commandments) among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal (Nu. 25:11; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Thus I say to you, joy comes before the angels of God over one sinner who repents (Lk. 15:10; RNT; emphasis added).

The next scripture used to claim that Almighty God’s anger is fierce and endures long, deals with the sinful behavior of the nation of Israel following their release from Egyptian slavery. Unfortunately, they did not appreciate what Almighty God had done for them

and, to add insult to injury, they refused to obey His commands, with the exception of a few like Moses, Joshua, and Caleb,

So the Lord's anger was aroused 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 gone (Nu. 32:13; cf. Isa. 26:21; Mic. 7:9).

It was only due to the righteous behavior of a few that God allowed the nation of Israel to enter the Promised Land. Had they changed their rebellious attitude, God would not have been angry with them for an extended period of time,

But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went and his descendants shall inherit it (Nu. 14:24).

The final text used to accuse Almighty God of contradicting Himself is Jeremiah 17:4. Again, this scripture has to be viewed in the context of those who refuse to repent and begin obeying God's commands. In this case it was the nation of Judah,

And you (Judah), even yourself, shall let go of your heritage (because of their unrepentant sins) which I (God) gave you; and I will cause you to serve your enemies in the land which you do not know (captivity in Babylon); for you have kindled a fire in My anger which shall burn *forever* (SHD 5769) (Jer. 17:4; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The word translated "forever" is SHD 5769, which means "all the days of life" as a perpetual slave is not to be discharged as long as he lives (cf. Dt. 15:17; Ex. 21:6; 1Sam. 27:12). Therefore God's anger lasted a generation, if the people refused to repent of their sins, just as it happened to ancient Israel when they wandered in the wilderness for forty years,

And I will make you cross over with your enemies into a land which you do not know; for a fire is kindled in My anger, which shall burn upon you (Jer. 15:14).

Therefore I (God) have poured out My indignation on them (sinners); I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and **I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads**, says the Lord (Eze. 22:31; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Punishment for sin over a period of forty years is a very short time when viewed from God's perspective. In fact, forty years as God views time is equal to about an hour,

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that **with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day** (for God) (2Pet. 3:8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Therefore, when a nation's sins are out of control, God will deal with that nation anywhere from one to four generations depending upon repentance; this is less than one day as God considers time,

Amen, I (Christ) say to you that this generation will not pass away until all these things come to pass (Mt. 24:34; cf. Mk. 13:30; Lk. 21:32; Ed. note in parenthesis).

God's anger against the nation of Judah did not last forever. They were allowed to return to Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. As the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in approximately 586 BCE and rebuilt around 516 BCE, God's anger lasted seventy years, or about an hour and a half in the spirit realm.

God's patience endures for a long time, not His anger. He is slow to anger and may provide many opportunities for repentance and plenty of warning before he takes action against sinful human-beings (cf. Amos 3:6-7a). Today, humanity is heading down a path similar to past generations that assimilated and tolerated sinful behavior. Consequently, history will continue to repeat itself until these lessons are finally learned. When this occurs, God will no longer need to get angry at sinful behavior because sin will not be present anywhere in His kingdom (cf. Rev. 22:15),

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain (symbol of leadership/government) of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains (leaders/governments of the fallen host that have existed up to this time), and shall be exalted above the hills (leaders/governments of the human realm that have existed up to this time); and all nations shall flow to it. ³ Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; **He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.**' **For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of God from Jerusalem.** ⁴ He shall judge between the nations (both physical and spiritual), and shall rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (Isa. 2:2-4; cf. Rev. 21:1-4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Those who wish to defame Almighty God typically make false statements. This is clearly the case when Psalms 30:5 is misquoted by saying, "God's anger endures but for a minute." This is contrary to scripture. Instead, this scripture states that His anger is but for a moment (SHD 7280). This same word is translated "for a little while" in Ezra 9:8. As we have seen, a little while for God is much longer than it is for mankind. So it is purposely misleading to state that God's anger lasts for a minute when human beings view a minute in a literal manner, which is sixty seconds.

In conclusion, God's punishment always "fits the crime" and His anger does not last following repentance (see study: What Is the Process Leading to Baptism?). The motive behind any of His punishments is to lead sinners to repentance (cf. Rom. 2:4b). If He is angry for what appears, from a human perspective, to be an extended period of time, it is because those responsible for evil works have not changed their ways. If they absolutely refuse to cease from sin, once they become aware of it, their stubborn behavior will eliminate them from the first resurrection. When this occurs, their opportunity for everlasting life will be suspended until a second resurrection from the dead (cf. Rev. 20:4-6). At that time, they will be judged by Jesus Christ for their previous conduct (cf. Ex. 23:21; Rom. 2:16; 14:10; 2Tm. 4:1). This will be their final opportunity to repent and begin obeying every word of God (Mt. 4:4).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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