

But that is *exactly* the point. God never has pleasure in anger, no delight in destruction or damnation, it is His last resort.

If we provoke God to anger, all our lives long, if we neglect His call, reject His command, what can we possibly expect but the full, due consequence of sin? Eternal, endless wrath upon undying spirits brings eternal punishment. The Bible describes it simply but fearfully, 'the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever'.

injustices, even those long forgotten by the parties, rectified. Who can know the power of *that* anger?

There is strong comfort in the picture of the Lamb. Jesus Christ did not come as a Judge, not the first time, nor as a King. He is first the Lamb. He bears as Isaiah foresaw 800 years before, 'our iniquity', was 'chastised for our peace', so that by His wounds we might be healed. He was cursed with the anger that belongs to *us*, that if we turn to Him, we might taste *His* blessing and peace. Renounce sin, trust Him, find that peace.

Dear one, turn to Him now, ask for a holy life and a new spirit, hate what He hates. Run from the fury to come, there is no other safety, none.

Is God *really* angry with you?



God is slow to anger. His kindness and patience are immense, even to His enemies. Many mistake this goodness for leniency and forgetfulness. That is a big mistake.

Sometimes the person who is slowest to anger can be the fiercest of all when they do express rage. Even a tender and indulgent mother usually has her limits and the children will know it when she reaches them.

God's indulgence to us is vastly greater than ours to each other. He knows our reasons better, He understands our thoughts afar off. He sees through all our excuses, but He waits and looks for our repentance, not once or twice, or even a thousand times.

We can scarcely imagine He'd be angry with us.

The most Divine summary of the Gospel

BEHOLD, THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD!

The last days of our dying Earth are days of anger, fierce men, uncontrolled women, angry nations and a furious devil behind the scenes. But at the culmination of it all, it is written 'the time of *Thy* wrath is come'. All the scores will be fully settled, all accounts made straight, all

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Some teachers even deny that it's possible for an all Benevolent Deity to be capable of fury. If He is all powerful, all seeing, knows all in advance and full of grace, how could He possibly be offended by His own handiwork, they claim? Anger is a sign of immaturity, a primitive, earthly emotion far beneath the dignity of the Most High, they say.

But they wickedly mislead who teach such empty nonsense. God is Holy. He did not bring sin into being. He hates it intensely. He hates child molestation, lying or cheating, He despises pride and arrogance, He loathes the evil in sexual relations outside the sacred bounds placed for our protection in holy matrimony. God after all has brought us into being to display His character, to bring Him pleasure and to enjoy His presence. Sin spoils all of this and ruins His work. How could He not be deeply offended?



God is a consuming fire of purity, of brightness, even the holiest prophets sensed themselves stained and dirty when in His presence. His very nature is just and good. His Law reflects His own

personality and character, rejecting the refuse and commending what is good and healthy.

God has every right to be angry when the beautiful plan He lovingly intended to show His glory and to safeguard our happiness is vandalised by our selfish and perverse rebellion.



Unlike us though, God's anger is not hasty or ill considered. God never loses His temper. All His anger is calibrated, precise and exactly meets the offence head on. In fact, in this life we rarely ever see His anger to its full extent, but we do catch glimpses. The fall of a monster like Epstein or Maxwell, the lightning exposure of a fraud like Madoff or Leeson, the collapse of the Third Reich, the Iron Curtain, or Khmer Rouge all these bring a view of far stricter and more perfect justice yet to come.

We have a common saying, justice delayed is justice denied. But God is willing to wait. His mercy waits for our repentance, His goodness stirs us to remember, His patience is almost but not quite infinite.

To mistake this patience for softness is a ghastly error, one we will greatly regret. Though God's anger is slow to kindle, once ignited it is more full, deep and terrifying than any mere dust of the Earth. If God be against us, who can protect us?

Nahum the prophet warned Nineveh and warns us now like this,

'God is jealous, and the LORD revenges; the LORD revenges, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies.'

The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.' (Nah.1.2-3)

There is a terrible scene described in the last book of the Bible as men struggle to escape the final and eternal anger of the Lord Jesus, they cry out to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb'.

Terrible but also very peculiar, who after all has ever heard of a lamb being angry? It is so much against his nature. Lambs are such meek and uncomplaining creatures, even when sheared or slaughtered. What could ever make a lamb so furious as to intimidate hardened captains of industry and worldly-wise politicians? How could a lamb's face terrify?