

God Is Slow to Anger

Exodus 34:6-7 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, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” (emphasis added)

The Good News of his Anger

The righteous judgment of God

Romans 2:2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

What should we think about an angry God?

The Better News of the Slowness of his Anger

Two audiences

The lawless (Romans 1:28-32)

The law keeper (Romans 2:1-6)

The lawless

REBELLION – Nobody will tell me what to do!

RECKONING – I’ll face the consequences and overcome them through my abilities.

The law keeper

REMORSE – I can’t believe I did that!

RESOLUTION – I’ll do better next time.

What’s wrong with the law keeper? He is arguing with what God says about him. He doesn’t believe he is bad; he thinks he can fix it with his own effort.

The Christian

REALIZE – I did do that! I can believe I am like that.

REPENT – Lord forgive me, you’re my only hope.

The Best News of the Satisfaction of his Anger

God’s propitiation

Propitiation - to satisfy the wrath of God against sin

*Romans 3:24-25 “[All who believe] are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a **propitiation** by his blood, to be received by faith.”*

Our peace

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Delight

Zechariah 3:17 The Lord your God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will delight in you greatly. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing.

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. How do you respond to the idea that God can be angry? Why?
2. Which of the two audiences do you resonate with? Are you the lawless or the law keeper? Trick question: which one is closer to God?
3. Do you think of God as quick to be angry toward you? Why or why not?
4. Why are human examples of anger incapable of showing us God’s anger? Does a bad earthly example (a father or authority figure) taint your view of God? How can learning the real character of God help overcome this?