

# Why is God so angry?



If you were to call out one words answers to the question, what is God like? What would you say? Christians will have quite a list of words before they may add, angry, or perhaps vengeful. And yet, particularly when you read the Old Testament, God often appears to be angry. He is portrayed as being mighty in war and ferocious in battle. He destroys people, cities and nations. Empires fall at his command and he punishes disobedience.

## Read Jeremiah 3:12-13

1. What would you say was God's attitude towards his people in these verses?
2. What does he say about his anger?
3. What does he say about his people?
4. What do they need to do?

## Read Jeremiah 6:1-12

1. How has God's attitude changed?
2. What do his people need to do?
3. Who is God speaking to in Jeremiah's proclamation?

Passage in Jeremiah 6 is full of seething rage and anger against his people who have completely failed to obey him and have turned away to other gods. Yahweh warned the Israelites 800 years before Jeremiah, that this would happen. **Read Deuteronomy 28:63-67.** That is just part of the curse of disobedience.

God is angry. God is wrathful. There is a burning rage that God pours out on humanity. But God is not spiteful. God is not churlish. God is not impatient. And God is not angry all of the time. From what we have read, why do you think God is angry?

## In deeper

God finally, after 800 years, ran out of patience with his people but did not give up on his creation. God still had a plan that would enable the whole of humanity to return to him.

After the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, the survivors gathered together the Scriptures and they wrote their history. They could look back and see how God had had his hand on them throughout time and they could look forward to a promised Messiah, a saviour. God had sent 7 prophetesses and 49 prophets. Seven is the number of completeness in the Scriptures, and forty nine is seven sevens, complete completeness. The next prophet would be number fifty, which is significant because that prophet would bring God's Jubilee. The Year of Jubilee is laid out in detail in Leviticus 25:8-55.

## Read Leviticus 25:8-10, Isaiah 61:1-2 and Luke 4:16-21

- Imagine what it would be like to have been in that room when Jesus read those words and then said what he said. What are your thoughts?
- In the Year of Jubilee, debts are cancelled, slaves are set free, land is returned and everyone has a fresh start. How does that relate to what Jesus did?

There are only two times that the New Testament quotes God's spoken word, Matthew 3:17 and 17:5. Both times God the Father identifies Jesus as his son. God also says he is pleased with him and we are to listen to him.

- What do you think will happen if we choose to ignore him?
- Do we really need to ask what will happen if we reject Jesus?

Jesus told a story that Matthew wrote down. **Read Matthew 21:33-42**

- Who do you think the servants represent in the story?
- Who is the son?
- Where did Jesus tell this story?
- Who pronounced the judgement on the tenant?