



Introduction

Anger and why it matters

Where to find the bible's teaching about anger

Series overview

1. Look around at an angry world
2. Leave room for an angry God
3. Find joy in the peace of Christ
4. Live wisely in an angry world

1. Look around at an angry world

Reading: Genesis 4:1-8

A. Anger and the heart

(1) Control

Examples – loss in the present:

2 Samuel 6:1-8	“Then David was angry...”
Daniel 2:12; 3:13	“This made (Nebuchadnezzar) so angry and furious...” “Furious with rage...”

Examples – fear for the future:

1 Samuel 18:1-9	“Saul was very angry...”
Nehemiah 4:1	“Sanballat became angry and was greatly incensed”
Matthew 2:1-18	“...Herod...was furious...”

(2) Possessions

Example:

1 Kings 21:1-4	“So Ahab went home, sullen and angry...”
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(3) Sexual intimacy

Proverbs 6:34	“For jealousy arouses a husband’s fury...”
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Example:

2 Samuel 13:15	“Then Amnon hated (Tamar) with intense hatred...”
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(4) Reputation

Examples

Numbers 22:21-29	“...Balaam ...was angry...”
1 Samuel 25	“Each of you strap on your sword!”
2 Chronicles 26:16-20	“Uzziah...became angry. While he was raging...”
Esther 1	“Then the king became furious and burned with anger”

The cognitive nature of anger

1. Perception
2. Appraisal
3. Emotion

The moral nature of anger

Genesis 4:5,6 “Why are you angry?”

Jonah 4:4,9 “Are you right to be angry?”

“In our way of thinking...then, we do not ask merely whether a pious soul is angry, but why...” (Augustine, *City of God*, Book 9)

B. Anger and the crowd

Proverbs 22:24,25

“Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person,
do not associate with one easily angered,
or you may learn their ways
and get yourself ensnared.”

Five examples of infectious indignation:

Numbers 16 “They came as a group...”

Luke 4:28,29 “All the people in the synagogue were furious...”

Matthew 20:20-28 “...the ten...were indignant...”

John 12:1-11 “Judas Iscariot...objected...”
& Matthew 26:6-13 “...the disciples...were indignant...”

Acts 19:23-41 “...they were furious...”

C. Anger and harm

Matthew 5:21,22 “You shall not murder...” “...anyone who is angry with...”

Type 1:

Proverbs 19:19

“A hot-tempered person must pay the penalty;
rescue them, and you will have to do it again.”

Examples:

Genesis 39:19 Potiphar... “burned with anger”

Exodus 11:8, Exodus 16:20, Leviticus 10:16, Numbers 16:15,

but Numbers 20:11 “Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice...”

Esther 1:12 and 2:1 “Then the king became furious and burned with anger”
“Later when King Xerxes’ fury had subsided...”

Type 2:

Examples:

Genesis 4:8 “Cain spoke to his brother Abel...”

Genesis 34:7 “...Jacob’s sons were shocked and furious...”
with 49:5-7 “...they have killed men in their anger...Cursed be their anger...”

Esther 3 “Haman...was enraged. Yet...”

2 Samuel 13 “Two years later...”

Exodus 21:12-14 “...But if anyone schemes and kills someone deliberately...”

Type 3:

Example:

1 Kings 21:3 “sullen and angry”

D. Anger and self-righteousness

(1) Anger and religion

Examples:

Acts 7:54 “the Sanhedrin...were furious and gnashed their teeth at him”
Acts 8:3; 9:1 Saul...
Philippians 3:6 “as for zeal, persecuting the church”

(2) Anger at grace

Examples:

2 Kings 5:1-14 “But Naaman went away angry...”
Jonah 4 “I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God...”
Luke 15:28,29 “The elder brother became angry... ‘...All these years I’ve been slaving for you...’”

(3) Anger at correction

Proverbs 9:7,8

“Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults;
whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse...”

Examples:

2 Chronicles 16:7-10 “Asa was angry with the seer...”
2 Chronicles 26:1-19 “Uzziah..became angry...”
contrast 2 Samuel 12:13 “I have sinned against the LORD”

E. Anger as anger should be (?)

Examples:

Exodus 32:19 “...Moses’...anger burned...”
1 Samuel 11:6 “...the Spirit of God came powerfully on (Saul), and he burned with anger.”
Matthew 3:7 “You brood of vipers!”
Acts 17:16 “...Paul...was greatly distressed...”
Psalms of Indignation