

# Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“GOD’S GREATEST HITS:  
EYE OF THE TIGER”**

**Anger:** Usually when we discuss anger, we speak of it as a negative attribute. Yet, Scripture tells us that God gets angry. It also clearly shows what makes Him mad. This week we will learn about the fact that the anger of God is right and how we, too, should feel this righteous anger.



### Today's Scripture:

Proverbs 6:12-14, 16-19; 21:4

## The Word

The anger of God stems from what He hates. Did you know that God hates? It is very clear in His word what invokes the hatred and anger of God and that is sin.

### **Proverbs 6:16-19**

<sup>16</sup> *There are six things the LORD hates,  
seven that are detestable to him:*

<sup>17</sup> *haughty eyes,  
a lying tongue,  
hands that shed innocent blood,*

<sup>18</sup> *a heart that devises wicked schemes,  
feet that are quick to rush into evil,*

<sup>19</sup> *a false witness who pours out lies  
and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.*

**Verse 16:** The writer of Proverbs is summarizing the sins that God hates. The book of Proverbs was written to give instruction, to help people become wise in every aspect of life. It is wise for us to know what the Lord hates so that we can protect ourselves from sinning against Him.

**Verse 17:** God hates haughty eyes. Haughty means proud. Remember the saying, "the eyes are the window for the soul"? (Refer to Luke 11:34) In other words, haughty eyes reflect a proud heart. You cannot have one without the other. In fact, later in Proverbs, these characteristics are proven to go together.

### **Proverbs 21:4**

<sup>4</sup> *Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin!*

God hates pride. We are not to be arrogant or conceited. We are not to brag on ourselves. We are not to exalt ourselves and to then look down on other people. We are not to trust in our own abilities, intellect, emotions for this leads to pride. Do you have haughty eyes?

God hates lies. They are detestable to Him. Out of the Ten Commandments, it was number nine that told us not to lie. Notice that God does not have “degrees” to lies. We say, “It was only a white lie, or a slight exaggeration, or a little misleading”. With God, it is either true or not. It cannot be somewhat true. It is a black and white issue in God’s eyes. You are either an honest person or a liar. Which are you?

God hates hands that shed innocent blood. When we hear a news story about a person who was killed in robbery or a gang shooting that hit a bystander or riots that get out of control or doctors that abort babies, often our hearts break, sympathizing with the innocent. We are not alone in how we feel. Please realize that God hates it as well. It makes Him mad.

**Verse 18:** God hates when we devise wicked schemes. We are not to plan for evil. Even if we justify it and think, “I would never really do that”, for even the thoughts themselves are despised by God. We never need to dwell on sin. Anything not of God is wicked, so whether the thoughts are violent, sexual, vengeful, manipulative, mean, greedy, etc.: they are wicked. When we are scheming, we are planning to do something in our own way and in our own strength. This is not trusting God. Besides that, it is blasphemy to think thoughts which go against God’s ways. What plans have you devised that go against the ways and purposes of God?

God hates feet that quickly run to evil. They are the people who purposely embrace what is wrong. They know the right way to go, but they turn around and head in the wrong direction. They do so with gusto, not taking time to consider the consequences. They are consumed with the evil. This is what takes place when people are caught up in any sin. I am not only referring to the common addictions: alcohol, drugs, sex, pornography; but also the ones we run quickly to that we never even acknowledge as wrong: gossip, off-colored jokes, insensitivity, manipulation, laziness, short-temperedness, and so many more. These are the habits that we quickly run to in our every day lives. We may be so used to them that we do not even recognize how quickly we go there. What sin do you quickly commit?

**Verse 19:** God hates a false witness. This is a person who purposely testifies against someone else. This cannot only occur in a legal court room but in our everyday conversations. When someone’s name is brought up, you do not mind shedding a negative light on them, which could possibly skew another person’s view about that particular “someone”.  
Have you ever been a false witness in a conversation?

God hates people who stir up trouble. This expression is further explained in some other verses from Proverbs.

## Proverbs 6:12-14

<sup>12</sup> *A scoundrel and villain, who goes about with a corrupt mouth,*

<sup>13</sup> *who winks with his eye, signals with his feet and motions with his fingers,*

<sup>14</sup> *who plots evil with deceit in his heart— he always stirs up dissension.*

**Verse 12-14:** This means that someone will use both verbal and non-verbal forms of communication to bring dissension between others. I have seen children who will ask one parent for something, and the parent will say “no”. Then they will ask the other parent and they will say “yes”. Then the parents end up fighting about their different reasons behind their answers and the child in the end gets her way. I have seen youth helping to keep their friends in a fight so that they look like the “better” friend to both sides. I have seen adults pin co-workers against each other in order to illicit information from both parties. God hates all of this. How have you stirred up trouble for others?

The text today was straightforward. You knew what each of these sins meant when you read about them. Yet, to read something and then apply it is very different. I hope that today’s reading helped you to evaluate your life and to see if there is anything you are doing that God hates.

## Application

Confess any sin that God showed you today.

At the end of the paragraphs was a personal evaluation question. Write down your answers here.



### Today’s Scripture:

Genesis 6:9-22; 7:1, 4-5, 17-18, 23-24; Ephesians 2:1-3

## The Word

God hates sin. His hatred of sin leads to His anger. The anger leads to His judgment of sin. The hatred and anger are always followed by the action of punishment. God will not allow what He hates to continue. His timing for His justice may seem like a long time to us, but He shows His anger and wrath according to His perfect plan. He proceeds the outpouring of His judgment after He has given time for repentance. That is how His anger and love can still work together. Today, we will see the evidence of this truth in the life of a man named Noah.

## **Genesis 6:9-22**

*<sup>9</sup> This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. <sup>10</sup> Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth. <sup>11</sup> Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup> God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup> So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high. <sup>16</sup> Make a roof for it and finish the ark to within 18 inches of the top. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. <sup>17</sup> I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup> You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. <sup>20</sup> Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. <sup>21</sup> You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." <sup>22</sup> Noah did everything just as God commanded him.*

**Verse 9:** Out of the entire world, only Noah was found to be blameless. Note that not even his wife or his sons were commended, only Noah. He was truly alone in a corrupt world. What kept him from evil? He chose to walk with God.

**Verse 11-12:** The entire earth was corrupt. How did it become corrupt? The people had chosen to corrupt their ways. Friends, it is always a choice. They had chosen to sin, to do what God hates, Noah had chosen to walk in God's ways. We cannot blame environment, parenting, friends, education, etc. It is time for us to take personal responsibility for what we have done wrong. The choice was ours.

**Verse 13:** When we are obedient to God, He shares with us His plans. Here, the Lord tells Noah His plan to destroy the earth. Imagine how this felt to Noah. God has just said that your friends, your relatives, your neighbors will be destroyed. Noah knew how corrupt the world was. He witnessed it day in and day out and yet chose to not become entangled in the corruption. Imagine how he felt. We are so familiar with this story that we forget that this was a real person who experienced this. While Noah is in a state of

shock and wonder (and possibly questioning if he would also be killed in all this), God shares with him a redemption plan.

**Verse 14-18:** Noah would be saved in an unusual way. He was to build an ark, or an extremely large boat. This is God extending mercy in judgment. Yes, the hatred for sin and the anger caused by sin would be clearly shown, but so was the grace, mercy, and love of God. This was not only extended to Noah but to his family as well. In 2 Peter 3:5, Noah is called a “preacher of righteousness”. So it is possible that he was proclaiming the truth to the people but they refused to listen. They ignored the mercy, grace, love, and salvation of God.

**Verse 19-22:** All of the plans that God told Noah including building the ark, bringing animals into the ark, storing up provisions of food for everything on board was obeyed fully by Noah. By his obedience, not only was his family saved but the human species itself was able to survive. Noah was obedient so he received the protection of God. The rest of the world received the wrath of God.

### **Genesis 7:1, 4-5, 17-18, 23-24**

*<sup>1</sup> The LORD then said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation..."*

*<sup>4</sup> Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made." <sup>5</sup> And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him*

*<sup>17</sup> For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. <sup>18</sup> The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water....*

*<sup>23</sup> Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; men and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds of the air were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark*

*<sup>24</sup> The waters flooded the earth for a hundred and fifty days.*

**Verse 1, 4-5:** The righteous and his family were saved. The unrighteous received the wrath of God. An entire generation was wiped out because of their choice to do what God hates. Only one followed God's commands and was saved.

**Verse 17-18:** As the ark rose to safety, how did Noah's family feel? I can't imagine them celebrating as they realized people around them were dying. The anger and wrath of God is not something we relish. Instead, it should make us reflect. I wonder if Noah's sons realized that they were not called righteous by God, that only their dad received that title. Did they think of all the reasons they did not deserve to be saved? Did they realize how close they were to being drowned themselves?

The hatred of sin and anger of God, should not give us cause to rejoice when others “get what they deserve”. For you see, all of us deserve the wrath of God. This is not reserved for just the “really bad”. Each of us has committed sin. Each of us has done something God hates. Each of us deserves to be drowned in the wrath of God.

### ***Ephesians 2:1-3***

*<sup>1</sup>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

How do we escape the wrath of God? There was another object made of wood that saves us. Noah had the ark. We have the cross. Noah had to trust that the ark would float, which took great faith considering he had never seen a boat before and its size was massive! We, too, must have faith in the One whom we have not seen with our physical eyes and who carried the weight of our massive sins. But the cross does save. It will carry us safely from eternal destruction to eternal life.

## **Application**

Ponder the hatred and anger of God towards sin. Realize that your nature was an object of wrath. Praise God that saved you from yourself.

If sin leads to incurring the wrath of God, why do we treat it so lightly?

Why is the topic of sin not readily discussed?

How should we be “preachers of righteousness” in a corrupt world?



**Today's Scripture:**  
Psalm 78:12-22, 43-51

**The Word**

### **Psalm 78:12-22**

- 12 He did miracles in the sight of their fathers  
in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.*
- 13 He divided the sea and led them through;  
he made the water stand firm like a wall.*
- 14 He guided them with the cloud by day  
and with light from the fire all night.*
- 15 He split the rocks in the desert  
and gave them water as abundant as the seas;*
- 16 he brought streams out of a rocky crag  
and made water flow down like rivers.*
- 17 But they continued to sin against him,  
rebellious in the desert against the Most High.*
- 18 They willfully put God to the test  
by demanding the food they craved.*
- 19 They spoke against God, saying,  
"Can God spread a table in the desert?"*
- 20 When he struck the rock, water gushed out,  
and streams flowed abundantly.  
But can he also give us food?  
Can he supply meat for his people?"*
- 21 When the LORD heard them, he was very angry;  
his fire broke out against Jacob,  
and his wrath rose against Israel,*
- 22 for they did not believe in God  
or trust in his deliverance.*

**Verse 12:** The Jewish nation had been enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. God released His people from bondage through a display of amazing wonders, commonly known as the ten plagues. These plagues are explained in further detail later on in this psalm.

## **Psalm 78:43-51**

- 43 the day he displayed his miraculous signs in Egypt,  
his wonders in the region of Zoan.*
- 44 He turned their rivers to blood;  
they could not drink from their streams.*
- 45 He sent swarms of flies that devoured them,  
and frogs that devastated them.*
- 46 He gave their crops to the grasshopper,  
their produce to the locust.*
- 47 He destroyed their vines with hail  
and their sycamore-figs with sleet.*
- 48 He gave over their cattle to the hail,  
their livestock to bolts of lightning.*
- 49 He unleashed against them his hot anger,  
his wrath, indignation and hostility—  
a band of destroying angels.*
- 50 He prepared a path for his anger;  
he did not spare them from death  
but gave them over to the plague.*
- 51 He struck down all the firstborn of Egypt,  
the firstfruits of manhood in the tents of Ham.*

**Verse 43-51:** All of these plagues were inflicted onto the Egyptian people while Israel received no effects from them. The people were a witness to the power of God's wrath on the Egyptians and the power of God's protection for them.

**Verse 13:** The culminating miracle was when the Red Sea was parted in two. The Jews walked through the walls of water on dry land. When the Egyptian army followed, the sea crashed down on them. The enemies of the Jews were defeated, while the Hebrews were preserved.

**Verse 14:** The miracles continued as they traveled through the desert. First of all, they were led by a pillar of cloud by day and a light from fire by night. They had the visual Presence of God in their camp. They could actually see the cloud and the fire. This had never occurred before. This is an amazing miracle. I wonder what it looked like. I always picture a tornado type cloud that sent cool breezes to the people in the desert during the day. At night, I wonder if it looked like a huge bonfire that warmed the entire camp against the chill. I do not know. All I do know is that there was an overwhelming visual image of God in their midst that no one could ignore or deny.

**Verse 15-16:** Besides the physical Presence of God Himself, the Lord was conducting miracles on their behalf. God allowed water to flow where there had not been water. Imagine being extremely thirsty. You look down at a dirty rock. You pray for water and suddenly water pours out from the rock. Not a trickle of water, mind you, but it gushes

with pure, clean stream water. Would you be amazed? Would you worship? Would you believe God could do anything?

**Verse 17-20:** The nation of Israel responded with complaints. After witnessing all the miracles of God, they continued in sinful rebellion. They grumbled and murmured. They dared God to provide for them in the way they wanted, not believing He could. They were saying, “Sure, God made water flow from a rock. Big deal. We want what we want and we want it now. God is not really all that powerful. Is He?”

They had seen the plagues of Egypt. They had walked through a sea. They had a pillar of cloud and fire in their midst. They had witnessed water streaming from a desert rock. And yet they are still questioning God?

**Verse 21-22:** God was angry. What made Him mad? Unbelief. The people who had seen His power refused to trust God. They did not believe in Who He is or in His abilities to deliver them. After all they had seen and experienced, they still did not believe. God’s own people had no faith.

God is the same today. He has not changed. Unbelief still makes Him angry. Often, we do not confront this issue as sin. We laugh and joke around that we are just “worry warts”. We are in sin. We justify ourselves and say that we are “realists”. We are in sin. We go ahead and try to fix the problems ourselves claiming that “God helps those who help themselves. We are in sin. We do not pray because we think that “we can’t waste time”. We are in sin. Unbelief is sin.

The nation of Israel had witnessed the power of God in the plagues. How much more accountable are we for we know the power of God that saves us from eternal destruction? The nation of Israel had the physical Presence of God in their group. How much more accountable are we for we have God Himself residing within us?

Unbelief is sin. The Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary defines unbelief as: *lack of belief or faith in God and His provision. While unbelief does not hinder God’s faithfulness (Rom. 3:3), it does affect the individual’s capacity to receive the benefits of that faithfulness...The skeptic is limited in what he might see or know, while “all things are possible to him who believes” (Mark 9:23).*

Unbelief, like all sins, has consequences. This sin limits our capacity in experiencing God’s power, provision, and purpose. This sin is claiming that God is not able. We may not come right out and say that, but by our actions we are proving this statement true. Unbelief is serious. It invokes the anger and wrath of God. We must stop coddling this sin. What miracles may we be missing because of our unbelief?

Review the miracles of God’s Word. This is the same God at work today. Who knows what He could do in and through a life that truly believes?

## Application

All of us have unbelief. It is evident in our community. If we truly were a people of belief, then this town would be turning upside down, like Jerusalem did when the disciples chose to believe the Resurrected Christ. Let's confess our unbelief and let's choose to believe. It's time to walk by faith and not by sight. Forgive us, God!

What thoughts do you have about God being mad at our unbelief?

How can we trust God with our eternal lives and not the day to day issues?

How can we go from unbelief to faith?



### **Today's Scripture:**

Zephaniah 1:14-18, 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

## **The Word**

God is angry at sin. It will be punished. Throughout history sin has been judged. However, a time is coming when the entire earth will experience the wrath of God. This time is referred to as the Day of the Lord. It refers to the tribulation and ultimate destruction of rebellious people.

### **Zephaniah 1:14-18**

<sup>14</sup> *"The great day of the LORD is near—  
near and coming quickly.*

*Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be bitter,  
the shouting of the warrior there.*

<sup>15</sup> *That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of trouble and ruin,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and blackness,*

<sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the corner towers.  
<sup>17</sup> I will bring distress on the people  
and they will walk like blind men,  
because they have sinned against the LORD.  
Their blood will be poured out like dust  
and their entrails like filth.  
<sup>18</sup> Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath.  
In the fire of his jealousy  
the whole world will be consumed,  
for he will make a sudden end  
of all who live in the earth."

**Verse 14-18:** This is a dark picture. The wrath of God is frightening. It is all-consuming. No one will be able to withstand Him. All ages, all races, all classes, everyone will be judged. The wrath of God will cause weather patterns to change, nature to go askew, physical pain, emotional havoc, confusion, terror, and hopelessness.

Yet look back at Verse 14. God is warning the people of what will take place. He shouts to all of us, "Listen, the Day is coming. Pay attention. Make changes now. You can avoid this suffering. There is a way out. You do not have to incur my wrath." How is this possible? He explains:

### **Zephaniah 2:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Gather together, gather together,  
O shameful nation,  
<sup>2</sup> before the appointed time arrives  
and that day sweeps on like chaff,  
before the fierce anger of the LORD comes upon you,  
before the day of the LORD's wrath comes upon you.  
<sup>3</sup> Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land,  
you who do what he commands.  
Seek righteousness, seek humility;  
perhaps you will be sheltered  
on the day of the LORD's anger.

**Verse 1-3:** Before the time of wrath comes, we must repent. We must humble ourselves before God and obey His commands. We must seek His righteousness.

Beyond that, we are to share this message with others, just as Zephaniah and Paul share it with us. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth saying:

## **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**

*<sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin<sup>a</sup> for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**Verse 18-21:** How do we seek righteousness? By seeking Christ. Our sins were placed on Him at the cross. There, the sins received the wrath of God. The sins were punished. Justice was served. Because Jesus took our sins, He can give us His righteousness. In order to accept His righteousness, we have to humble ourselves. We are humbled when we realize that we are sinners, that we deserve the wrath of God, that we cannot earn the favor of God, and that we are in need of salvation. We repent of our ways and exchange them for the ways of God, which are His commands. Then, we look toward the Righteous One, Jesus Christ, and receive His righteousness. That is the only way we are spared the Day of the Lord, the wrath of God. His wrath, instead of being poured out on us, was taken out on Jesus, the One who carried our sins on the cross.

If you have sought the righteousness of Jesus, and received it from Him, praise God. You have been spared. You will now receive eternal life instead of the wrath of God that you deserved. However, the gift of righteousness comes with responsibility. Review the passage from 2 Corinthians. We have been given the ministry of reconciliation. That means we are to show others how to seek righteousness so they can be reconciled with the God they offended with their sin. With the gift of righteousness came the gift of ministry. We are called to appeal to others and explain their need for reconciliation. They need to not have their sins counted against them or they will endure the anger, wrath, and judgment of God.

He is appealing to the world to receive His gift and has called us to be the ambassadors to share this "peace treaty" with them. We should be imploring others to be reconciled to God. We should be burdened with the consequences of their sin and rebellion. Our heart should beat in tune with God who is asking people to listen to the way that will allow them to avoid the oncoming wrath. It will be a terrible time.

The Day of the Lord is not without warning. But we are called to be spokespeople, ambassadors, informing others in hopes to save lives for eternity.

# Application

Ask God to give you His heart for people. Ask for His help in the ministry of reconciliation.

Write down thoughts about how you think the Day of the Lord will be like.

How can we reconcile the anger of God with His love?

You are not Billy Graham. Yet you, too, have been called to be God's ambassador. How can you specifically live out the ministry of reconciliation?



## Today's Scripture:

Exodus 34:4-7a, 2 Peter 3:9b

## The Word

I know this has been a heavy week as we have studied the anger and hatred of God. As we try to grasp this attribute of God, we may feel overwhelmed. We realize the condemnation that we deserve as well as the punishment this world has to face. Our awareness may feel like a weight pinning us down. But before we feel crushed by the burden, we need to realize this wonderful truth: the anger of God is slow in coming.

### **Exodus 34:4-7a**

*<sup>4</sup> So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the LORD had commanded him; and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands. <sup>5</sup> Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and*

*proclaimed his name, the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup> maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin..."*

**Verse 4:** This is the second set of stone tablets for Moses. The first set he broke. Why? Because he was angry. Moses had been on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and nights. During this time, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and other laws as well. Moses was in the Presence of God.

Another scene was taking place at the base of the mountain. The people thought that Moses had died. They asked Aaron, the brother of Moses, to build them an idol. He carved a golden calf out of the people's gifts of jewelry. The Hebrews claimed that this was the god who had brought them out of Egypt. They worshiped the calf. When Moses approached the camp, he fumed with anger and threw down the tablets, smashing them into pieces.

Thus, Moses needed a new set of tablets. He chiseled them out and then went up on Mount Sinai in order to meet with God. It was the Lord who had called him there.

**Verse 5:** The Lord came down in a cloud. He stood with Moses. The Name of the Lord was proclaimed. This does not mean God said, "Hi, My Name is the Lord". Names were extremely important in the Jewish culture. The Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary explains it this way:

*...the people of the Bible were very conscious of the meaning of names. They believed there was a vital connection between the name and the person it identified. A name somehow represented the nature of the person.*

By proclaiming the Name of the Lord, God was revealing His character, His person, His very nature to Moses.

**Verse 6-7:** God then explains to Moses the Name in terms we humans can understand. What is the Name of the Lord? Compassion, graciousness, slowness to anger, love, forgiveness, judgment: all of these encompass the Name of God, who God is, His character. Read those traits again. All of these attributes are not just qualities of God but somehow they represent God Himself. They cannot be separated but instead they all intertwine in God's make-up. This is not just what He does, this is Who He is.

God's anger cannot be viewed apart from His character. His first reaction is not to rain fire down on people. To be slow to anger reveals a diametric point of truth: God is patient. He deals with our rebellion time and time again. We continually shake our fist at a perfect and holy God who could smash us like a bug. Yet, He does not get ruffled and say, "Well, I'll show them." Instead, in keeping with His nature, He continues in compassion, grace, and love. For He desires for all of us to receive His forgiveness in order to escape the judgment that we deserve.

## **2 Peter 3:9b**

*<sup>9</sup>...He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

The anger of God is slow. Because of this you and I had the opportunity to receive the gift of God's grace and mercy. The anger of God is slow. This means we have the opportunity today to tell others about the way of salvation. The anger of God is slow. So, we can live in confidence of the perfect Nature of our God. His Name is the Lord.

## **Application**

Praise God for the marvelous fact that His anger is slow in coming.

When God revealed His Name to Moses, He shared that He was slow to anger. Why do you think He wanted us to know that?

How can the misconceptions of God's anger be damaging to an unbeliever? What about to a believer?