

Studying the Psalms

Security Of Those Who Trust In The Lord ...

Psalms 37:8

December 4, 2022

Review: Background

“David would often have seen the Lord’s enemies appear to be flourishing.

- “Goliath openly defied the armies of the living God (1 Samuel 17:4-11, 23-24).
- “David’s anointing by Samuel did not lead him straight to the throne, but to a life hiding in wilderness regions [where Samuel tried to destroy him] (1 Samuel 22:1-2; 24:2; 26:2).”

(Evan and Marie Blackmore, *Psalms (I)*, Truth Commentaries, page 411)

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Review: Background

- “‘*Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel*,’ so that again David was forced to flee into the wilderness while the wicked flourished in the palace with thousands of supporters (2 Samuel 15:6, 14-28; 16:15-17:2, 11).
- “Yet, in all these situations David continued to trust in the Lord and was delivered (vv. 3, 40), whereas the wicked soon perished and were cut off.”

(Evan and Marie Blackmore, *Psalms (I)*, Truth Commentaries, page 411)

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Summary ... Let God take care of it.

- Don’t be angry. In fact, forsake the idea! When we fret, it causes harm. It will not accomplish any lasting good to sink to their level with an ungodly attitude.
- Psalms 37:8, “Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: Fret not thyself; (it tendeth) only to evil-doing.” (cf. James 1:20; 3:16)
- Fret: “Burn ... with vexation” (Rotherham)

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The Sin of Anger

- A disposition of fury (*orge*). Colossians 3:8
 - Does not produce good fruit. James 1:20
 - We can and must put away anger. Colossians 3:8
- Repent of anger. Ephesians 4:26-27
 - Refuse anger when it begins ... How?
 - Meditate on the Lord and trust in Him. Psalms 4:4-5 (Philippians 4:8)

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Anger: A Heart Problem

Proverbs 23:7

“For as he thinketh within himself, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; But his heart is not with thee.”

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Why Are You Angry?

“He that is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked” (Proverbs 29:27, 10).

- Cain was angry because of envy. Genesis 4:6; 1 John 3:11-12
- Saul repeatedly tried to kill David, although he admitted that David was more righteous than himself (1 Samuel 24:11, 17).
- Haman sought to kill ALL the Jews because Mordecai refused to bow before him (Esther 3:6).
- The people of Jesus’ day became *“betrayers and murderers”* of the Righteous One (Acts 7:52).

Why Are You Angry?

- *“Cain said unto Jehovah, My punishment is greater than I can bear.”* (Genesis 4:13)
 - Saul suffered death in battle against the Philistines (1 Samuel 18:25; 31:1-4).
 - Haman hanged on his own gallows. (Esther 7:10; 8:7)
 - His sons also. (Esther 9:13, 25)
 - Those who crucified the Righteous One incurred a greater punishment themselves than they could possibly inflict on him – the punishment of unquenchable fire (Matthew 3:12; Luke 19:27).
- cf. Hosea 8:7, *“For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: he hath no standing grain; the blade shall yield no meal; if so be it yield, strangers shall swallow it up.”*

Why Are You Angry?

God was angry because of the sin of His people.

1. With the wicked. Psalms 79:5
2. With Moses. Deuteronomy 1:37; 4:21
3. With Aaron. Deuteronomy 9:20
4. With Solomon. 1 Kings 11:9
5. With Israel. 2 Kings 17:18

Why Are You Angry?

Jesus became angry because of sin.

1. With the money changers in the temple.
cf. John 2:17, “make not my Father’s house a house of merchandise.” Jesus was *“eaten up” with anger.*
2. Later in His ministry He cast them out again, **“And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves”** (Matthew 21:13 KJV).
3. When the Pharisees hardened their hearts as Jesus healed on the Sabbath day. Mark 3:1-6

The Expression Of Anger

“Be ye angry, and sin not ... neither give place to the devil.” Ephesians 4:26-27

NOTE: Some situations actually do expect anger ... righteous anger.

1. Moses came down from Sinai and found Israel embroiled in idolatry and revelry. (Exodus 32:1, 19-20)
2. Potiphar came home to his wife crying about an assault on her by Joseph. (cf. Genesis 39:19ff)

How Do We Behave In Anger?

1. Cain killed Abel, lied to God. Genesis 4:7-9
 2. Saul sought to kill David. 1 Samuel 18:7-9
 3. Haman sought to kill ALL the Jews because Mordecai refused to bow before him. Esther 3:6
 4. Jews crucified Jesus and stoned Stephen.
- Tantrums, yell, stomp, and kick, throw things, say things to hurt. Such unrestrained behavior is NEVER right! It is sinful!

Anger Must Not Void Self-Control

- Self-Control commanded.
 - Virtues. 2 Peter 1:5-7
 - Fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23
 - Example of Jesus demands it. 1 Peter 2:22-23

Wise Man Controls His Anger

- Proverbs 16:32, “*He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; And he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city.*”
- Proverbs 14:29, “*He that is slow to anger is of great understanding; But he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*”
- Proverbs 19:11, “*The discretion of a man maketh him slow to anger; And it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*”
- Proverbs 15:18, “*A wrathful man stirreth up contention; But he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*”

The Fool Does Not Control His Anger

- Ecclesiastes 7:9, “*Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.*”
- Proverbs 29:11, “*A fool uttereth all his anger; But a wise man keepeth it back and stilleth it.*”

In Anger, What Do You Say?

Do you say insulting, hurtful things?

- Proverbs 18:21, “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue ...*”
- Proverbs 12:18, “*There is that speaketh rashly like the piercings of a sword*”
- Proverbs 16:27-28, “*An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends*” (KJV).

In Anger, What Do You Say?

Do you curse?

- Exodus 20:7, “*Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain, for Jehovah will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain*”
- Leviticus 24:14, “*Bring forth him that cursed without the camp ... and let all the congregation stone him*”
- Ephesians 4:29, “*Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth, but such as is good for edifying as the need may be that it may give grace to them that hear*”

In Anger, What Do You Say?

Do you argue?

- Proverbs 15:1, “*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but a grievous word stirreth up anger*”
- Colossians 4:6, “*Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one*”