

Doctrine of the Anger of the Lord

1. The expression, “*the anger of the Lord*”, is limited in Scripture to the Old Testament.
2. This anthropopathy (Greek *ανθρωπος*, *anthropos*, "human", *παθος*, *pathos*, "suffering") expression conveys an emotion to God so that He might be better understood.
3. The anger of the Lord was manifested against Moses when Moses persisted in unbelief to offer excuses for not believing God or not being willing to obey.
 - *Exodus 4:14 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.*
4. The anger of the Lord was manifested against Israel for their ungrateful hearts at His divine provision of manna.
 - *Numbers 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the Lord was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.*
5. The anger of the Lord was manifested against Miriam and Aaron when they dared to rise up against divinely established authority in the person of Moses. In His anger God will withdraw His presence from His people.
 - *Numbers 12:9 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them; and he departed.*
4. The anger of the Lord was manifested against Israel when the nation began to engage in licentious rituals in honor of Baal-peor, an idol god of the Moabites who was worshiped on Mt. Peor.
 - *Numbers 25:3 And Israel joined himself unto Baal-peor: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel.*
5. The anger of the Lord is a fierce anger. The heads of twenty-four thousand people were cut off and hung against the sun for the sin of worshipping Baal-peor. They were a sacrifice to God’s honor and justice.
 - *Numbers 25:4 And the Lord said unto Moses, Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the Lord against the sun, that the fierce anger of the Lord may be turned away from Israel.*
6. The anger of the Lord was manifested against the tribes of Gad and Reuben for not going to war when they were needed and thus discouraging the hearts of the people of Israel. They were acting as their fathers did in Kadesh-barnea.

- *Numbers 32:14 And, behold, ye are risen up in your fathers' stead, an increase of sinful men, to augment yet the fierce anger of the Lord toward Israel.*
7. The anger of the Lord is manifested against all who turn from Him to worship and serve an idol.
- *Deuteronomy 6:15 (For the Lord thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the Lord thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.*
8. One expression of the anger of the Lord is to administer premature and sudden death to the wicked.
- *Deuteronomy 7:4 For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.*
9. The anger of the Lord is manifested against the person who walks in the wicked imaginations of their own hearts.
- *Deuteronomy 29:19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: 20 The Lord will not spare him, but then the anger of the Lord and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven.*
10. The anger of the Lord was manifested against Achan, the son of Carmi because of his act of covetousness.
- *Joshua 7:1 But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the Lord was kindled against the children of Israel.*
11. God's people know of the potential manifestation of the anger of the Lord for they are forewarned. Any expression of divine discipline should not be a surprise for warning grace always precedes judgment.
- *Joshua 23:16 When ye have transgressed the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed yourselves to them; then shall the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and ye shall perish quickly from off the good land which he hath given unto you.*
12. National disintegration and enslavement is one form of manifestation of the anger of the Lord.

- *Judges 2:14 And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies.*
- *Judges 3:8 Therefore the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushan-rishathaim eight years.*
- *Judges 10:7 And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon.*

13. The anger of the Lord is manifested against the transgression of His covenant.

- *Judges 2:20 And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice;*

14. The anger of the Lord was manifested against Uzzah for daring to touch the Ark of God. Better provisions for transporting the Ark could have and should have been made.

- *2 Samuel 6:7 And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.*

15. The anger of the Lord will move Him to use the natural inclinations of sin in the soul in order to judge His people.

- *2 Samuel 24:1 And again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.*

16. When the anger of the Lord is aroused, there is a disregard for human life, human feelings, or human suffering.

- *Isaiah 5:25 Therefore is the anger of the Lord kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.*

17. When God's people know the fierce anger of the Lord is against them, they should gird themselves with sackcloth. They should lament and howl in desperate agony and sorrow for sin.

- *Jeremiah 4:8 For this gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl: for the fierce anger of the Lord is not turned back from us.*

18. The anger of the Lord will make sure those who have sown do not reap, those who took pains to accumulate wealth shall not prosper, and those exploit others shall be ashamed.

- *Jeremiah 12:13 They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, but shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the Lord.*

19. The anger of the Lord shall not be abated until His justice and holiness is satiated.

- *Jeremiah 23:20 The anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.*
- *Jeremiah 30:24 The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it.*

20. When the anger of the Lord is aroused, the innocent suffer.

- *Jeremiah 25:37 And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the fierce anger of the Lord.*

21. It is possible, based upon gospel repentance and authentic repentance, to deliver oneself from the fierce anger of the Lord.

- *Jeremiah 51:45 My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the Lord.*
- *Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
- *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*