

Q:

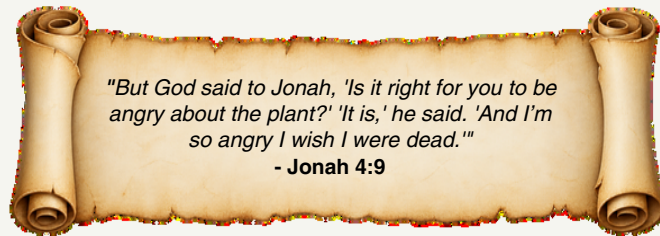
Am I mad at God?

When the question was first posed to me, I scoffed. Mad at God? Hell no. Why would I be mad at God? (I think I said it half under my breath as if someone might be listening.)

But as I walked on and thought about it more, I had to ask myself again: ARE you mad at God?

This time the answer was: I think I might be. But I don't know why.

God did, though. He knew exactly why.



What kind of an idiot gets mad and stays mad at the most powerful, all-knowing divine being?

It came as quite a shock to me when I sat down to sort out the reason. Turns out, there were more than one. A lot more.

Being honest about the subject didn't make it any easier.

Maybe I was goading Him into obliterating me from the face of the earth for committing what I thought must be a sin of extreme severity.

Then I thought...

God is in control of all things. Who else was to blame?

Why was I only mad at God? Why never Jesus or the Holy Spirit?

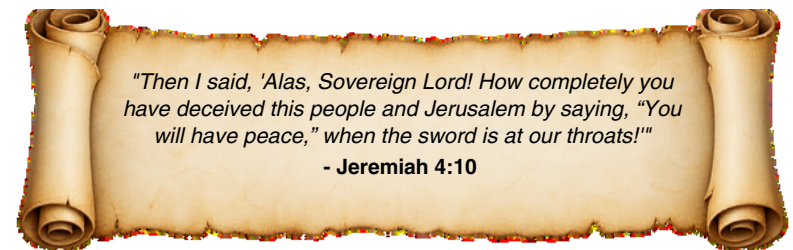
How much hostility directed at the world is actually anger with God?

I was born with a short fuse. I used to blame it on my Irish heritage. But that didn't really float once I was forced to deal with it before it consumed me. In retrospect, it made no sense. All things considered, I was pretty content and blessed in a thousand ways.

Turns out, I was mad with Him about much more than I thought. And more often.

I could list a few here: Unmet expectations. Wounded pride. Perceived injustice. Envy. All the usual suspects.

But the last person I was willing to blame was myself.



A WORD ON THE WORD

Before "Satan" became familiar to English readers as a personal name for the Devil, the Hebrew root *satan* described an adversary — someone who opposes, challenges, or accuses. Add the prefix *Ha* ("the") and the action is transformed into a role. In a judicial setting, "the prosecutor". But in the world at large, it becomes "the adversary" or "the accuser."

When we pull off the lid and crawl in, we discover anger against God can have many sources.

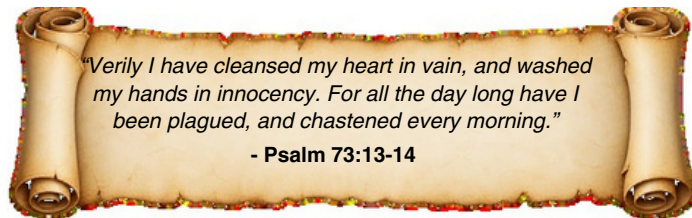
- Blame God for making the universe and everything in it.
- Blame God for being too confusing or difficult to understand.
- Blame God for not carrying our cross.

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■ Blame God for knowing we will turn from Him and not stopping us.

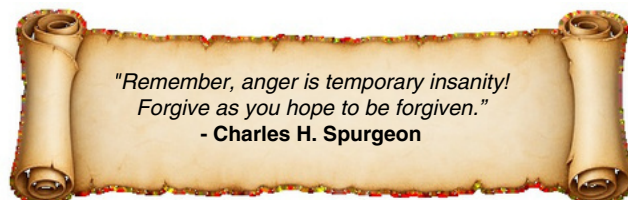
In each case, we point the finger at God. We accuse Him of somehow failing us.



One cold argue God makes it rather easy to be angry with Him.

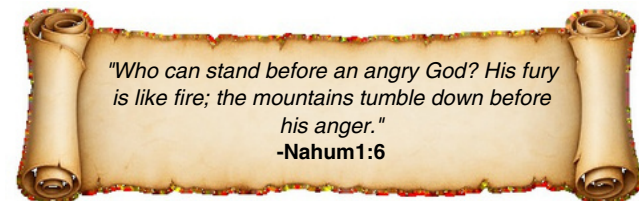
- Why is life filled with such suffering and sadness?
- Why doesn't God just tell us what He wants or expects?
- Why all the mystery surrounding faith and salvation?
- Why do prayers go ignored?

Perhaps our disappointment is not with what God does or doesn't do, but who God is. We know He has the power to fix it all yet refuses.



Scripture is filled with those who express anger and disappointment directly to God. And He does not always silence them. He expects us to experience emotion, real human emotion, as was part of our original design.

God's righteous anger is quite another thing. When we picture God's wrath we see uncontrolled fury, nostrils flared thunderbolts raining hellfire on sin-filled cities.



But the biblical term "wrath" is misunderstood. When applied to God, the context is less about violence and more about opposition to wrongdoing, disappointment triggered by moral evil, and the suppression of His truth.



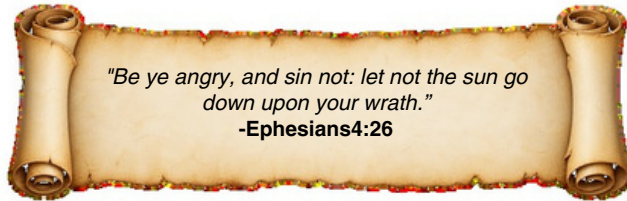
Anger toward God cannot be disguised. It does not go undetected wrapped in sadness or veiled in melancholy.

He doesn't ask to see the clean you standing before Him. The one wearing false cheer staring at the floor.

He wants the whole you. The crushed you. The stumbling fallen you. The exasperated seething you. The "I can't muster up the strength to say Thank you" you. The raging you.

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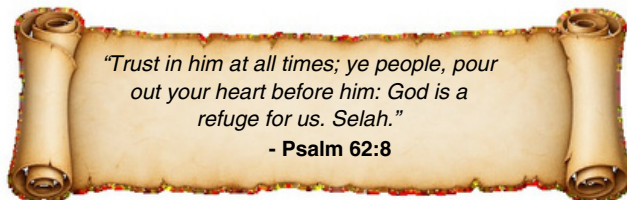
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Trust and lament must somehow live together. That is the sad and chaotic reality of our fallen world.

But stay turned toward Him in every state. In anger. In joy. In confusion and frustration.

Stand before Him as you are. Raw, unfiltered, and humble always.



For how can a heart that hides from itself ever be healed?



■ IN THE GARDEN, ADAM + EVE ALREADY KNEW BOTH GOOD AND EVIL. FOR THEY HAD KNOWN GOD INTIMATELY WHO IS ALL GOOD, AND "KNEW" EVIL (THE SNAKE) BEFORE THEY ATE OF THE TREE OF GOOD AND EVIL.

↳ THEY **CHOSE** TO TRY TO TAKE IT **ALL** RATHER THAN ENJOY THE RICH ABUNDANCE OF **ENOUGH**.

↳ BY EATING OF THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THEY **CHOSE** TO LIVE ACCORDING TO **RULES** ("the law") OVER A **RELATIONSHIP** ("trust in God").

MAN DID NOT FAIL THEM DIRECT DISOBEDIENCE BUT SUBTLE SEDUCTION.

↳ AND THE REMAINDER OF THE BIBLE IS GOD PROVIDING RULES FOR THEM TO LIVE RIGHTEOUSLY WHICH THEY **DISOBEY** OVER AND OVER INSTEAD CHOOSING TO DO WHAT IS "GOOD IN THEIR OWN EYES".

↳ UNTIL GOD MUST SEND HIS OWN SON TO **SHOW** THEM HOW TO LIVE AND TO REMOVE SIN FROM US AND **BUILD** A NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.



Q. WHAT PART OF THE BIBLE IS SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO ME PERSONALLY?

A. ALL OF IT. EVERY CHARACTER IN THE BIBLE REPRESENTS ME - FROM THE SNAKE IN THE GARDEN ALL THE WAY UP TO JESUS.

■ NOT ONLY DID ADAM BREAK THE ONLY COMMANDMENT GIVEN BY GOD, IN A DIRECT AND CONSCIOUS ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE AND BETRAYAL (FOR HE NOW MUST HAVE BELIEVED HIMSELF TO BE A GOD, ONE TO WORSHIP AND ~~BE~~ WORSHIPPED), BUT HE IMMEDIATELY BLAMED HIS OWN WIFE FOR HIS WEARINESS, AND WISELY, BLINDLY HELD GOD IN CONTEMPT FOR HAVING GIVEN HIM EVE TO BEGIN WITH.

"AND THE MAN SAID, THE WOMAN WHOM THOU GAVEST TO BE WITH ME, SHE GAVE ME OF THE TREE AND I DID EAT."
- GENESIS 3:12

↳ IN THE MAN'S VOICE ONE CAN ALMOST TASTE THE VILE REPROACH USED AGAINST GOD.

↳ MAKES ME WINCE. PERHAPS BECAUSE THE TONE IS SO FAMILIAR.

↳ MAN, "THE ACCUSER."

"IT WAS YOU..."



...WHO DID THIS TO ME!"

- 🍏 FROM A GOD INTO SATAN IN ONE SENTENCE.
- 🍏 FROM ABUNDANCE TO TOIL & SCARCITY IN ONE ACT.
- 🍏 FROM ETERNAL LIFE TO A SLOW PAINFUL WALK OF FINNITY.
- 🍏 FROM LOVE TO HATE IN A SINGLE BITE.

...the serpent did not lie... (ALSO...)