

The Character of God

“The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

Exodus 34:6-7 (NIV)



The
Character
of **God**

**THE LORD IS
SLOW TO ANGER**

“

The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction; jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent, bully.

”

Richard Dawkins – The God Delusion



DON'T MAKE ME COME DOWN THERE

Challenging verses

“In the greatness of your majesty, you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.” Exodus 15:7

“He unleashed against them his hot anger, his wrath, indignation and hostility— a band of destroying angels. He prepared a path for his anger; he did not spare them from death but gave them over to the plague.” Psalm 78:49-50

Two Stories

Story 1 – The Exodus

Exodus 13-34

Story 2 – Jesus clears the Temple

John 2:13-17

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Therefore...

- 1. God at times responds in anger – it's part of his character.**
- 2. Although God gets angry, he is slow to anger.**
- 3. God's anger is not the opposite of his love but because of it.**

“

Strange, but true. I learned to rest in my father's love because of his wrath.

”



Mark Buchanan
The Holy Wild

Therefore...

- 1. God at times responds in anger – it's part of his character.**
- 2. Although God gets angry, he is slow to anger.**
- 3. God's anger is not the opposite of his love but because of it.**
- 4. May we also be slow to anger.**

“

**... his steady, unrelenting,
unremitting, uncompromising
antagonism to evil in all its forms
and manifestations.**

”

John Stott – *The Cross of Christ*