



Anchor Your Identity

Question 1 – God’s Anger

Judg. 2:12: "They aroused the Lord’s anger..."

- **Question:** "If God says His very nature is compassion, why does He seem so angry in the Bible? Is His anger against people—or is it anger from compassion? Sometimes it feels like God is more against us than for us."

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Question 2 – God’s Violence

Judg. 2:14; 3:8: "The anger of the Lord burned... He sold them into the hands of their enemies."

- **Question:**
"The Bible is full of graphic violence. In Judges, God hands His people over to raiders and raises up judges who go to war. If God is compassionate, why do His stories seem so cruel and violent?"

Question 3 – The Land

Judg. 2:21–23: "I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations Joshua left..."

- **Question:**
"How can God give land to Israel when other people were already living there? Isn't that unjust? What does it say about God's character if He takes away one people's home to give it to another?"

Anchor your identity in Jesus — not as a label you wear, but as a life you live. He is the only power that breaks cycles, the path of compassion, love, and boundaries that lead to real freedom.

"The first step to breaking any habit loop is awareness — bringing compassionate attention to what binds us is what sets us free." Dr. Judson Brewer (Neuroscientist)

Judges 2:2, 3, 11, 12, 15-20; 3:1, 2, 7-11(NIV): "you have disobeyed me. Why have you done this?"³ And I have also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; they will become traps for you, and their gods will become snares to you.'"¹¹ Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. ¹² They forsook the Lord... They aroused the Lord's anger ... They were in great distress... Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hands of these raiders.¹⁷ Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had been obedient to the Lord's commands. ¹⁸ Whenever the Lord raised up a judge for them, he was with the judge and saved them out of the hands of their enemies as long as the judge lived; for the Lord relented because of their groaning under those who oppressed and afflicted them. ¹⁹ But when the judge died, the people returned to ways even more corrupt than those of their ancestors, following other gods and serving and worshiping them. They refused to give up their evil practices and stubborn ways. ²⁰ Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel. These are the nations the Lord left to test all those Israelites who had not experienced any of the wars in Canaan ² (he did this only to teach warfare to the descendants of the Israelites who had not had previous battle experience)...

⁷ The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord; they forgot the Lord their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs. ⁸ The anger of the Lord burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim ("double wickedness") king of Aram Naharaim to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years. ⁹ But when they cried out to the Lord, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz (which means he was NOT an Israelite but was instead a Kenizzite which were a part of the Canaanites the very people they were supposed to drive out), Caleb's younger brother, who saved them. ¹⁰ The Spirit of the Lord came on him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The Lord gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him. ¹¹ So the land had peace for forty years, until Othniel son of Kenaz died."

- "Four score and seven years ago..."
"Ask not what your country can do for you..."
"I have a dream..."

The Two Kinds of Power

Elohim (generic "god/power")

- Any deity, force, or idol
- Pharaoh's gods = oppressive power
- Power that can abuse or enslave

YHWH (God's personal name)

- "The God who is with us"
- Defined by compassion & faithfulness (Ex. 34:6)
- Power that rescues, protects, and loves

Progression of God's Name

Moses learns YHWH – Ex. 3:14–15

Pharaoh rejects YHWH – Ex. 5:1–3

Israel experiences YHWH – Ex. 6:2–3

Egypt will know YHWH – Ex. 7:5; 14:4,18

YHWH = Compassionate Power — like a mother protecting her children

Isaiah 66:13(NIV): "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you..."

Hosea 13:8(NIV): "Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open; like a lion I will devour them— a wild animal will tear them apart."

Luke 13:34(NIV): "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."

Joshua 5:13-15(CEV): "One day, Joshua was near Jericho when he saw a man standing some distance in front of him. The man was holding a sword, so Joshua walked up to him and asked, 'Are you on our side or on our enemies' side?' ¹⁴ 'Neither,' he answered. 'I am here because I am the commander of the Lord's army.' Joshua fell to his knees and bowed down to the ground. 'I am your servant,' he said. 'Tell me what to do.' ¹⁵ 'Take off your sandals,' the commander answered. 'This is a holy place.' So, Joshua took off his sandals."

How to Treat the Non-Israelite / Enemy

Exodus — Don't harm

Leviticus — Act in love

Deuteronomy — Imitate God's love

Proverbs 25:21 — If your enemy is hungry, feed them; if thirsty, give water

What if you gave the rest of your life to this — anchoring your identity in Jesus? Not as a label, but as the life you live: the only power strong enough to break the cycles that bind you, the path of compassion, love, and boundaries that lead to freedom.

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.