

# WHY DOES GOD SEEM ANGRY?



For use in Animated/Engaged Learning.

When people hear stories of God calling for the destruction of people, cities, or entire nations, they often see God as angry. Why does He have to destroy? It doesn't seem fair—which is the exact accusation Satan makes against God: that He is unfair. So what's the answer?

Read Genesis 18:20–30. In verses 20 and 21, what does God say is the reason He is going to check on Sodom? What does this tell us is going on with Sodom?

*The outcry against them is great—other people are being hurt, oppressed, or negatively impacted in some way by that city and the people in it.*

*God could have destroyed Sodom based on the outcry of His people, and yet He goes to check out the situation Himself first.*

In verses 22–32, Abraham bargains with God, asking whether God will still destroy the city if He finds righteous people there. Abraham is concerned about his nephew Lot, who lives in the city. Abraham asks all the way down to ten people. God says He will not destroy the city if even ten righteous people live there.

In the end, the city is destroyed. Since we have evidence elsewhere in the Bible that God keeps His promises, what does that indicate about the righteous in the city?

*There were not even ten righteous people in Sodom.*

This wasn't an issue of God being angry with Sodom and simply deciding to get rid of them. This was God keeping His end of the covenant with His people that said if they obeyed Him, He would protect them. The outcry against Sodom indicated that God's people needed protecting. God is fair in that He checked out the situation for Himself before destroying the city.

In chapter 19 we see that God sends protection even for the less than ten righteous people in the city. He is not only fair, but merciful. The people of Sodom show their true nature in the way they treat the angels visiting the city.

God's anger or wrath is simply Him letting us go to our own desires. If we do not want His protection, He will not force it upon us, but we must be willing to experience the consequences of our choices.

Sometimes our choices negatively impact those in covenant with God, and He must protect them, like He protected those crying out against Sodom. God is in the business of taking care of His people.

Read the following verses about God's dealings with His people:

- Isaiah 1:18: *God will do what is unreasonable. Although our sins are like scarlet, He will make them as white as snow.*
- Ezekiel 18:30–32: *God is judge. We have the chance to repent, or change, but there comes a point where we have to choose whether to live or to die.*
- Matthew 23:37: *God wants to redeem us, but we don't have willing spirits.*
- Romans 10:21: *Israel wouldn't obey.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:20: *our part is to reconcile ourselves to God (repent).*

When we consider whether or not God is an angry, unfair, destructive God when we read stories like Sodom and Gomorrah, it is important to look at the whole picture of who God is. God doesn't change (Malachi 3:6), so if we see a loving, caring, merciful, gracious God throughout other parts of the Bible, we must consider that as well. Maybe there's more to the story than we think; perhaps we are missing context to the story; maybe we need to recognize the true nature of sin and the fact that we do want God to put an end to sin so that we don't have to experience the effects of it anymore.

Adapted by Deborah Parrish from  
*His Story: Just in Time* from the Crossroads Series