

Is God angry

Does our suffering ever prompt us to say “God is angry and is punishing me”?

While wilful sin does have a penalty – we reap what we sow – not all suffering is punitive.

For example, suffering may be, first, the result of love, not anger. “Whom the Lord loves He chastens” Hebrews 12.6

God chastises in love, not anger! What an example He is to every parent.

Second, the innocent may suffer vicariously for the guilty.

When Jesus suffered on Calvary’s cross, He wasn’t being punished for any wrong that He had done.

He chose to die for our sins. John 10.17-18.

Third, if we suffer due to events over which we have no control and for which no one is to blame, we should see ourselves as victims of our circumstances not the subjects of God’s wrath.

Finally, if we do suffer punishment as a direct result of some sin we commit, that need not end the matter.

We immediately become candidates for God’s forgiveness. 1 John 1.9

And, as well as being made wiser by learning from our folly, we may also have the opportunity to make amends. Most wonderful of all, we can rejoice that God has reached out to us in love, not anger.

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GOOD NEWS IN BRIEF

God is not against us for our sin. He is for us against our sin.

Ken Packer