

Psalms 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

Analysis

God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. This verse presents a profound and often uncomfortable truth about God's character: His holiness requires both vindication of righteousness and opposition to wickedness. The structure is perfectly balanced—God's relationship to the righteous (He judges/vindicates them) parallels His relationship to the wicked (He is angry with them).

"Judgeth" (shofet, שָׁפֵט) is a participle suggesting continuous action: "God is judging" or "God continuously judges." This isn't a one-time event but God's ongoing evaluation and vindication of those who trust Him. The righteous need not fear this judgment; it works in their favor, demonstrating their innocence and God's justice.

"God is angry" (za'am, זָעַם) uses a strong Hebrew term for indignation or wrath—not petulant irritation but holy, righteous anger against moral evil. Crucially, this anger is **"every day"** (bekhol-yom, בְּכָל-יוֹם)—literally "in all day." God's opposition to evil isn't occasional or capricious; it's constant, consistent, and unwavering. Every day that wickedness continues, it faces divine displeasure.

This verse challenges contemporary sentimentality about God as purely therapeutic or affirming. Biblical revelation presents God as loving and gracious, yes, but also as holy and opposed to evil. His love doesn't negate His justice; rather, His justice demonstrates His love for righteousness and His commitment to

a moral universe. As Paul writes, God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness (Romans 1:18).

Historical Context

Ancient Israel understood God's wrath as necessary corollary to His justice. A God who feels no anger at child sacrifice, oppression of widows, or perversion of justice would not be good. The prophets consistently portrayed God's anger against both Israel's unfaithfulness and pagan nations' cruelty (Nahum 1:2-6; Jeremiah 21:5).

However, God's anger differs fundamentally from human anger. Human anger is often selfish, petty, or uncontrolled. Divine anger is always proportionate, righteous, and serves just purposes. Jonah learned this when God's compassion prevailed over His announced judgment against Nineveh (Jonah 4:1-2). God is "slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 103:8), yet His patience isn't indifference.

The concept of daily divine anger against wickedness would have resonated with a people who experienced ongoing oppression and injustice. Knowing that God actively opposes evil every single day—not just at eschatological judgment but continuously throughout history—provided both comfort (God cares about daily injustices) and warning (persisting in wickedness means facing constant divine opposition).

The New Testament reveals that God's wrath against sin was fully satisfied at the cross. Christ bore the wrath we deserved (Romans 3:25-26; 1 John 2:2). For believers, there is therefore "no condemnation" (Romans 8:1). Yet God's ongoing opposition to evil in the world continues until Christ returns to judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you reconcile God's daily anger against wickedness with passages emphasizing His patience and desire for all to be saved (2 Peter 3:9)?
2. In what ways does understanding God's holy anger against evil deepen appreciation for Christ's work of bearing that wrath on the cross?
3. What would a God who never felt anger at injustice, abuse, or oppression be like, and would such a God be truly good?
4. How should knowing that God 'judges the righteous' (vindicates them) daily affect your response to ongoing persecution or misunderstanding?
5. What is the difference between God's righteous anger against sin and human sinful anger, and how can you cultivate the former while avoiding the latter?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים	שׁוֹפֵט	צַדִּיק	וְ	אֵל	זֶה	בָּכָל
God	judgeth	the righteous	and	God	is angry	H3605
H430	H8199	H6662		H410	H2194	

יְדֹמִים:

with the wicked every day

H3117

Additional Cross-References

Nahum 1:2 (Judgment): God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

Nahum 1:6 (Parallel theme): Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.

Psalms 7:8 (Righteousness): The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me.

Psalms 94:15 (Righteousness): But judgment shall return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it.

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