

“Praying For God’s Angry Love”

I. God’s Angry Love?!?

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath.” (Zechariah 8:2 ESV)

“Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb.” (John 11:38)

He is jealous for me, loves like a hurricane, I am a tree
Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy
When all of a sudden I am unaware of these afflictions
Eclipsed by glory and I realize just how beautiful You are
And how great Your affections are for me

And oh, how He loves us, oh
Oh, how He loves us, how He loves us all (David Crowder)

II. Isaiah Knows God’s Angry Love Cares Deeply

A. Put Sinners In their Place

“Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved?” (Isaiah 64:1–5)

“If we go around the Holocaust Museum and so not feel outraged that it happened, we are not loving, but apathetic. Similarly, a man who was not angry that his wife had been having an affair would not thereby demonstrate how much he loved her, but how little. So it is with God.” (Andrew Wilson)

B. Put The Godly In their Place

“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins.” (Isaiah 64:6–7)

“Isaiah knew more perfectly than all others the mystery of the religion of the Gospel”. (Gregory of Nyssa)

“When a Christian sees prostitutes, alcoholics, prisoners, drug addicts, unwed mothers, the homeless, refugees, he knows that he is looking in a mirror. Perhaps the Christian spent all of his life as a respectable middle-class person. No matter. He thinks, Spiritually I was just like these people, though physically and socially I never was where they are now. They are outcasts. (Spiritually speaking) I was an outcast.” (Timothy Keller)

III. The Reason Isaiah Prays for God’s Angry Love

A. It Is True God Has Reason To Be Angry

“All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins.” (Isaiah 64:6–7)

B. God’s Anger Is Love Because He’s Our Father Who Cares

"Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."
(Isaiah 64:8)

"God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." (Colossians 2:13–15)

C. God's Anger Is Love Because He Cares About His Masterpieces

"We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." (Isaiah 64:8)

*One day I asked God why He loved me.
He seemed to say, "Because."
"But why?" I pressed.
"Because I chose to," He said.
It felt cold.*

*"But why did you choose to?"
"Because of who I am," He said.
It felt distant. I wanted something more.*

*"Was it because of who I was?"
"No," He answered. "You were lost, a sinner, disgraced. There was nothing to commend you to Me."
I was aghast.*

*"Then was it because of who I would become?"
"No," He said. "I have made you all you are."
I felt humbled.*

*Finally I said, "But why, Lord? There must be some reason why you loved me. "
"There was, " He said. "Before you ever were, I knew you. Before you had ever done anything right or wrong, I wanted you for My own. Before you had any potential, before anyone else saw in you a glimmer of greatness or even goodness, I saw you as a helpless child, and I loved you. "
I was amazed.*

*"So you have always loved me?"
"And I always will. "
I laughed for joy, it felt so good.*

*I said, "Then I don't have anything to worry about. "
This time He laughed and said,*

"That's what I've been trying to tell you!" (Mark Littleton)