

## A Study About Elders

(Part 19)

### I. Introduction:

A. Anger can be righteous (**Mark 3:1-6**; cf. **Hebrews 7:21-26** and **I Peter 2:21-22**).

1. The word of God can cause righteous indignation (**Jeremiah 15:16-17**).
2. In general, you can be angry and sin not (**Ephesians 4:26-27**).

B. However, being an angry person is a formula for disaster (**Ecclesiastes 7:9**).

1. An angry person is so dangerous that it is wise not to befriend that individual (**Proverbs 22:24**).
2. Anger is something one should be able to cut off rather than be overtaken in (**Psalms 37:8** and **Colossians 3:8**).

### II. Body: Not Soon Angry (**Titus 1:7**).

A. What we are looking at is a term that means: "Irascible: — soon angry. Prone to anger" (Strong's # 3711).

1. A person who is soon angry deals foolishly (**Proverbs 14:17**).
2. On the other hand, not getting angry quickly makes one better than the mighty (**Proverbs 16:32**).

B. This is not a lesson about controlling anger, it is about not quickly getting angered [wrath; excitement of mind; anger] (**James 1:19-20**).

1. We will address self-control in another lesson (**Titus 1:8**).
2. What we don't want is a shepherd who can be easily provoked and blow up (**Numbers 20:1-13**).
3. Instead of the betterment of others, anger can lead a person to seek the destruction of others (**Genesis 4:1-10**).
4. An elder that is slow to anger will be able to defuse situations (**Proverbs 15:18**; cf. **Proverbs 15:1**).

C. Consider how the Lord is "slow to anger" (**Psalms 103:8-14**).

1. This does not mean He ignores sin (**Nahum 1:3**).
2. He does act in anger (**Deuteronomy 29:19-24** and **Psalms 7:11-12**).
3. However, He is not so quickly angered that He becomes irrational as a result (**Deuteronomy 9:13-29** and **Psalms 106:32-45**).
4. The Lord is our example to follow (**Ephesians 5:1-2** and **I John 2:3-6**).
5. Lest we dismiss Old Testament examples, remember that Jesus was active in the Old Testament (**I Corinthians 10:1-4**) and even when He wasn't He was unified with our Father (**John 17:20-23** and **I John 5:7**).

III. Conclusion: **Proverbs 14:29** *\*What is translated from Hebrew as "wrath" here is translated "anger" 172 times in the Old Testament.*