

GRADUALLY, SLOW, SLOWED, SLOWLY

After God stopped the flood that destroyed the whole earth, the waters **gradually** receded.

- **Genesis 8:3:** "And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated."

When Esau offered to join Jacob on the rest of his trip, Jacob said he had to travel **slowly** because if his livestock were driven too hard they would die. (This may have been true, but it seems that Jacob used it as an excuse to get Esau to leave. After all, he could have asked Esau to match the slower pace of his livestock. This seems more like an excuse to get rid of him than anything else.)

- **Genesis 33:12-13:** " And he said, Let us take our journey, and let us go, and I will go before thee. And he said unto him, My lord knoweth that the children are tender, and the flocks and herds with young are with me: and if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die."

Moses told God that he had a **slow** tongue and was slow of speech. (In other words, Moses believed he was a poor communicator.)

- **Exodus 4:10:** "And Moses said unto the LORD, O my LORD, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue."

Ahab died a **slow** death.

- **1 Kings 22:34-35:** "And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot."
- **2 Chronicles 18:33-34:** "And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: therefore he said to his chariot man, Turn thine hand, that thou mayest carry me out of the host; for I am wounded. And the battle increased that day: howbeit the king of Israel stayed himself up in his chariot against the Syrians until the even: and about the time of the sun going down he died."

God was going to punish Jehoram for all the evil he did by sending a terrible sickness upon him that caused him to die a **slow** and painful death.

- **2 Chronicles 21:15:** "And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day."

God gave Jehoram a long, **slow**, and painful death that took several years to kill him.

- **2 Chronicles 21:19:** "And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases. And

his people made no burning for him, like the burning of his fathers."

The fact that God didn't forsake the Israelites when they rebelled against Him is proof that He's gracious, merciful, **slow** to anger, and kind.

- **Nehemiah 9:17:** "And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not."

David wanted God to destroy the wicked **slowly** instead of quickly, so that people would see the judgment of the wicked and would remember it.

- **Psalms 59:11:** "Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield."

God is **slow** to anger.

- **Nehemiah 9:17:** "And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not."
- **Psalms 103:8:** "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."

- **Psalm 145:8:** "The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy."
- **Joel 2:13:** "And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."
- **Nahum 1:3:** "The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet."

We must be **slow** to anger.

- **Proverbs 14:17:** "He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated."

It's very wise to be **slow** to anger. Those who are slow to anger are demonstrating great wisdom.

- **Proverbs 14:29:** "He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly."

The way to appease strife is to be **slow** to anger.

- **Proverbs 15:18:** "A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife."

It's better to be slow to **anger** than to be mighty.

- **Proverbs 16:32:** "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."

The woman moved with haste to go to her beloved (Solomon). Her desire for him was so great that she didn't move reluctantly or **slowly**. (Her speed to reach him is compared to the speed of a chariot.)

- **Song of Solomon 6:12:** "Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib."

The destruction of Sodom was very quick. However, God's judgment upon the Jews was very **slow**, and the pain lasted for a long time.

- **Lamentations 4:6:** "For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her."

God is compassionate and merciful, and **slow** to wrath.

- **Hosea 11:8-9:** "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together. I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city."

One day God will punish the wicked with tremendous anger and fiery vengeance. He is **slow** to anger, but He won't acquit the wicked.

- **Nahum 1:6:** "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."

The crowd which accompanied Jesus to the home of Jairus **slowed** Him down.

- **Mark 5:24:** "And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him."

Even though Jesus was trying to get to the house of Jairus to heal a sick child who was on the verge of death, the crowd didn't care. They refused to make way so Jesus could go heal the child, and instead **slowed** Him down so much the child died before He could get there.

- **Luke 8:41-42:** "And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him."

Jesus said the two disciples who were walking to Emmaus were **slow** to believe everything the prophets had spoken.

- **Luke 24:25:** "Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:"

When Jesus appeared to His disciples and told them it was Him and not a spirit, they wondered what was going on. They

were **slow** to believe even when Jesus appeared to them.

- **Luke 24:39-41:** "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?"

When the ship that was transporting Paul to Italy left Myra, it sailed **slowly** for many days.

- **Acts 27:7:** "And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;"

It seems the ship that was taking Paul to Italy was controlled by the winds. If the winds were contrary then that **slowed** the ship down.

- **Acts 27:7:** "And when we had sailed slowly many days, and scarce were come over against Cnidus, the wind not suffering us, we sailed under Crete, over against Salmone;"

God doesn't say we should be swift to speak. Instead He says we must be swift to hear and **slow** to speak.

- **James 1:19:** "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"

Christians must be **slow** to wrath. (James doesn't say that

wrath is always wrong. There are places for wrath, and there are times when God Himself is angry. However, we must not be quick to become angry.)

- **James 1:19:** "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."