

Is God Mean?

Is God Mean?

What is “Mean”?

offensive, selfish, or unaccommodating; nasty; malicious

That man was mean.

She’s mean.

I think what they did was mean.

These statements are subjective in nature.

based on or influenced by personal feelings, tastes, or opinions.

philosophy : relating to the way a person experiences things in his or her mind

The answer to our question “Is God Mean?” is not subjective.

Is God Mean?

II Samuel 6 : 1 – 8

David chooses to bring the Ark back to Israel.

David chooses the men to help him.

David chooses how to bring back the Ark.

David chooses to become angry at God.

What do I mean by “David chooses”?

II Samuel 5 : 17 – 25

“So David inquired of the Lord...”

‘sha al’ (h) – to inquire, by implication to request; to enquire of, consult (of deity, oracle)

Is God Mean?

II Samuel 6 : 1 – 8

Why did David choose to become angry at God?

Some may say – “Look at what God did.”

God struck Uzzah dead.

So, Is God Mean?

Some, even many, say, “Yes.”

Those who do answer the question subjectively.

Yet, the answer to our question is not subjective.

Is God Mean?

Is God being mean by striking Uzzah dead?

Genesis 3 : 18 – 19, 24

God punished man and sent them out of the Garden.

Is God Mean?

Genesis 7 : 11, 21 – 24

God destroyed all life.

Is God Mean?

Most people say, “No”.

What is the difference from Uzzah?

Most people would say, it's the difference of
“apples and oranges.”

Is God Mean?

Is God being mean by striking Uzzah dead?

We need to answer the question objectively.

Having actual existence or reality.

Uninfluenced by emotions or personal prejudices

What's the difference?

A SUBJECTIVE point of view is a personal view or opinion. It is different from OBJECTIVE because an OBJECTIVE Point of View gives only facts.

The difference between these terms is the difference between fact and opinion

Is God Mean?

Is God being mean by striking Uzzah dead?

Genesis 4 : 1 – 5

God does not respect Cain's offering.

Is God Mean?

Subjectively – some say “Yes” some say “No”

Consider it Objectively

Genesis 4 : 6 – 7

What does God tell Cain?

“If you do well, will you not be accepted?”

“If you do not do well, sin lies at the door.”

Cain did not do well, in doing so, he was not accepted.

Is God Mean?

Is God being mean by striking Uzzah dead?

What did God do?

This puts the “responsibility” on God.

What did man do?

Genesis 2 : 16 – 17

“...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Genesis 3 : 6

“...she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.”

Based on these facts, when God punished man,
was He mean? - No

Is God Mean?

Is God being mean by striking Uzzah dead?

What did man do?

Genesis 6 : 5

“...the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

Based on these facts, when God destroyed the world, was He mean? - No

Is God Mean?

Is God being mean by striking Uzzah dead?

What did man do?

II Samuel 6 : 3

“So they set the ark of God on a new cart...and Uzzah and Ahio...drove the new cart...Uzzah...took hold of it...for the oxen stumbled.”

Based on these facts, when God struck down Uzzah, was He mean? - No

Is God Mean?

What does God do? (Objectively)

Hebrews 12 : 5 – 6

“...FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.”

Is this mean? – No.

“exhortation” - ‘paraklesis’ - imploration, hortation, solace; consolation, comfort

“loves” - ‘agapao’ - to love (in a social or moral sense); to be fond of, to love dearly

Hebrews 12 : 7 – 11

“no chastening seems to be joyful...but painful; nevertheless it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness...”

To us, punishment is “mean.” (subjective)

But in reality it’s “exhortation and love.” (objective)