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## LOOK OUT! IT'S GONNA BLOW!

**People with understanding control their anger; a hot temper shows great foolishness.**

—PROVERBS 14:29 NLT

**Imagine an explosion so powerful that it shoots molten rock and ash hundreds of feet into the air, triggering massive fires, tsunamis, and electrical storms.** Sounds like something out of a science-fiction movie, doesn't it? But it's not fiction; it's science! The science of an erupting volcano, that is.

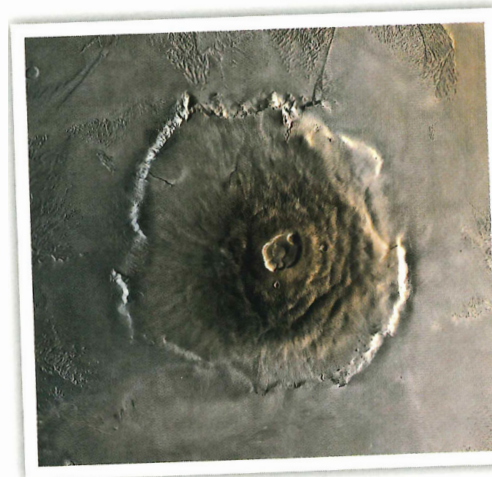
Some 1,500 active volcanoes are on the Earth, and about 20 of them are actively erupting right this second! So how do volcanoes erupt? Well, remember the outermost layer of the Earth is called the crust. And the Earth's crust isn't completely solid. It's made up of giant puzzle pieces called *tectonic plates*. Under those plates (about 18 miles or so below the Earth's surface) is a layer

## BE AMAZED

of hot liquid rock called *magma*, along with a bunch of explosive gases. As the tectonic plates “float” atop the magma, they rub against each other. At the same time, pressure builds up in the magma and gases until . . . *ka-boom!* This molten hot mixture explodes up through cracks in the Earth's crust. The magma, which is called *lava* when it passes Earth's surface, spews out at temperatures of more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, scorching and burning anything it touches.

Does that image of an erupting volcano remind you of anything or *anyone*? Words like *hot* and *explosive* not only describe volcanoes, they can also describe your temper. Of course, everyone gets angry—even Jesus did. But how you handle your anger makes all the difference. If you find yourself starting to “spew” angry words or “explode” at whoever gets in your path, take a deep breath and get out of there. Get away by yourself and talk to God. Tell Him what's going on, and ask Him to show you

The largest above-ground volcano in the world, which is more than 2.5 miles high, is Mauna Loa in Hawaii. But there's an even bigger volcano—on Mars! That's right. The tallest volcano in our solar system is Mars' Olympus Mons. This volcano is 13 miles high and 373 miles wide.



how to handle your anger the right way. Because you don't want people saying, “Look out! He's (or she's) gonna blow!” about you.

***Lord, when I get angry, help me not to spew foolish and angry words that only make things worse. Instead, give me the words and the wisdom to make things better.***