



## Why Do Some Think God is a Monster?

**Exodus 20:5-6: (NASB) <sup>5</sup>You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup>but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.**



What would you think of a powerful leader who sanctions rape, pillaging, the destruction of thousands of lives for the wrongdoings of one, racism and genocide? No matter who we are, if we have a conscience in any way tuned to the sanctity of human life we would have to label them a monster - a maniacal, psychopathic egotist. Sadly, there are many who read certain *parts of the Bible* and handily conclude that the God of the Bible - the Creator of all things is such a being. They call Him out for the horrible and harsh things written in the Old Testament and boldly claim that a God who presides over those things is no God at all - He is instead a monster. Now look - there are terrible things written in the Old Testament, but do they point to a heartless dictator or is there another explanation?

Over the last several months there have been several debates on our Facebook page over this issue. We have atheists who give their perspective and the Christians that respond. Typically, this ends up degrading to emotional name calling and worse.

### Introduction, *Biblical Evidence Proving That God is Evil Part 1*

- To begin, ask anyone you know to make a list of the most evil acts they can think of. Chances are the resulting list will include all or most of the following: Murder and genocide, animal and human sacrifice, torture, child abuse, animal abuse, theft, slavery, pedophilia, rape, incest, cannibalism, betrayal and lying. Now, if any individual or two deliberately condone or commit even two of these acts we would likely consider him to be a vile, evil person, wouldn't we? So, how would we regard someone who condoned or committed every single one of them? Well, that's exactly what the God of the Bible has done.*

This is a real perspective that many people hold. *We unequivocally believe that God is not in any way, shape or form a monster* - on the contrary we believe Him to be the universal model of benevolence, justice, wisdom and love.

First, a direct quote of "proof" of God's character from one of our Facebook contributors who holds a view contrary to our perspective:



**"The Bible contains 31,102 verses where God condones, orders or carries out acts of violence, including on innocent children...that alone is too high a price to any moral person..."**

# FACT

(Source: Wikipedia)

**There are 23,145 verses in the Old Testament and 7,957 verses in the New Testament.**

**This gives a total of 31,102 verses, which is an average of a little more than 26 verses per chapter.**





There are 31,102 verses in the entire Bible, so what the writer claimed was wrong.

**Examples of verses where violence is not mentioned:**

1 John 4:8: (NASB) *Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

John 11:35: (NASB) *Jesus wept.*

Whether this simple misrepresentation is intentional or an oversight, the lesson is simple: Find and follow the TRUTH of the matter! We will cover many of the horrible Bible verses, but first things first...

We will first build a foundation to work with in order to build a structure of reason. The greatest challenge of this podcast will be communicating what we believe to be provable truth to those who in most cases have already written us off as fools. The provable truth we will lay out is detailed, lengthy and requires not just your time but your focused attention as well.

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- God is our Creator - He is not like us or one of us, He is above us and by His grace we have life.
- God has a plan - He is not impetuous or egotistical - He is wise, just and loving.
- God believes in free choice - His highest creations all have it and free choice is a tool of righteousness.
- God is moral - His morality is eternal and He has used the human experience to teach it to us.
- God uses evil - He is not evil nor does He fall prey to it. For God, evil is a method to accomplish His plan.
- God is above evil - His very character cannot violate the pure righteousness that He created.
- God's plan for humanity includes the destruction of evil from our world - He told us this in the Bible.

*To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we must first need to know:*



God is our Creator - He is not like us or one of us, He is above us and by His grace we have life.

Genesis 1:27: (NASB) *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

To be made *in His own image* means we can reason, we can create and we have free choice.

For those who would accuse *God*, we say - you use God's word (a being you do not believe in and a book that you think is foolishness) as a sword with which to slay Him - why not be reasonable? REASON REQUIRES you to learn how that sword is supposed to be used - how God intended it to be used. Give the word of God the ability to present itself and to represent itself in a way that is different than you might think.



## How do we know that God was even originally "on our side"?

If some want to put God on trial for what they *think* He did, they of necessity need to find His motive. In looking for a motive, they need to be willing to accept the foundation for what God is. Many Christians also do not understand the foundation of where God is coming from.



**Genesis 1:28-31:** (NASB) <sup>28</sup>God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth. <sup>29</sup>Then God said, Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; <sup>30</sup>and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food; and it was so. <sup>31</sup>God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good...

Notice the clear direction, life conditions and lifestyle God laid out. He put all things in place. Everything was there they would need to flourish. An example would be preparing for a house guest. We make sure the house is just right and give them all the amenities to make their life convenient. We say, "Welcome to my home." That is what God was saying. "Welcome to my creation, Adam and Eve." Just like any plan we lay out that is easy and logical, until someone decides they have a bright idea and chooses to alter it - to create a different road. Now what do you do? Well, some think God turns murderous and maniacal.

### **Murder and genocide - the Flood, Biblical Evidence Proving That God is Evil, Part 1**

- *Murder and genocide is the most obvious example of evil throughout the Bible with many glaring examples, as God frequently condones or personally commits murder and genocide. The Great Flood is the example with the highest death toll. The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out. Fundamentalists insist this was necessary because everyone had become wicked and needed to be killed. Even though at a minimum, hundreds of thousands of innocent babies and children had to have drowned along with the adults. All this to eliminate evil from*





*the earth, which as we all know failed completely and which an all-knowing God should have known would fail completely.*

The sons of God (fallen angels) came to earth and mated with women and created a hybrid race that could not live with humanity. It was unauthorized and not a creation of God. He needed to put an end to this evil. For those who condemn God for taking innocent lives, we wonder how many are pro-choice (taking innocent lives).



*To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we must first need to know:*



God believes in free choice - His highest creations all have it and free choice is a tool of righteousness.

Genesis 3:1-7: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Indeed, has God said, you shall not eat from any tree of the garden?

Satan, another of God's mighty creations (Lucifer), was in the privileged position of overseer of the Garden and mankind. (For more on this, please see CQ program "Who is Satan?" from August 15, 2016.) He chose to rebel against God and sought to be like God and draw humanity after himself. Satan interfered and introduced a different road! God allowed free choice.



<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; <sup>3</sup>but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, you shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die. (Satan is calling into question what God said.) <sup>4</sup>The serpent said to the woman, you surely will not die! <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

When a new, logical and alluring voice arises *in contradiction to the voice of God Himself*, it can easily feel like a voice of progress to bring us to further enlightenment, because it is appealing to us. It is not the voice of progress! We need to consider the source. Rather it is ALWAYS a voice of pride and godlessness, which ALWAYS results in the flourishing of evil.

God allowed free choice and gave Adam and Eve rules and guidelines. A loving father does this for their child to teach life lessons. Good parents watch them choose and then help them learn from that choice.



### What was Eve's reaction?

*<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.*

Eve's reaction typifies our human response - looks good, sounds good, tastes good... Remember, if it is not in line with God's will (which at that time was as beautiful a life as one could imagine) then whatever good we think we get is ultimately evil. Sometimes the evil does not present itself right away. Humanity has free choice. Because of the power of the Tree of Knowledge, Adam and Eve were given some knowledge of good and evil. Their first reaction was shame, but in our society, the shame is set aside. It is politically correct to not be shameful. While that is freedom of choice, it is also freedom of disaster, which is what happened to Adam and Eve in the Garden. God gave them the power over their own lives so they could what would happen when they acted outside of His will.

Granting free choice is not a flaw of God; it shows the great strength of God.

**Sin is now present and a different road is now open.  
What does God do with this?**

There are a lot of difficult things written in the Bible, and they are there for a purpose. There are many who interpret those things and say, God is an evil monster, otherwise He would not allow or command those things to happen. *God is not an evil monster!* To be able to grasp how those things could happen within the plan of God, we first need to understand the plan of God. God has an eternal plan and allows free choice so we can learn what happens when we choose unrighteousness.

**For Adam (and us), the full consequence of disobedience using his free choice was sin and death:**

**Genesis 3:17-19:** (NASB) *<sup>17</sup>Then to Adam He said, Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, you shall not eat from it; Cursed is the ground because of you (the just consequence for disobedience); In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life... <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

God keeps His word. Does this different road mean God failed? No, it simply shows us He is wise enough to be able to work through "different" and not alter His ultimate outcome. We need the foundation of understanding the plan of God.

So, "different" is now in place. What does that mean? *A new setting means new rules.* Adam was created a free man and in harmony with God and could live a far more privileged life than the Adam who sinned and who is *now in the prison of sin and death.* *Our prison house rules are restrictive!*

Any just society understands that those who are law breakers need to learn the consequences of their actions. This is a lifetime lesson for humanity, and a generational lesson that touches every single human being that ever lived.

God had an ideal pattern. Choices were made and the ideal pattern laid out was not useable anymore. God walked us down the road of our own choice and is letting it unfold. This is a wise Father!



*To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we must first need to know:*



God is moral - His morality is eternal and He has used the human experience to teach it to us.

God is moral and uses the darkness of the freedom of choice and the consequences of sin to teach us what morality is. How can that be possible when people die in their sins and their misery? They will learn when they are resurrected.

**God would now choose whom He would deal with and He chose only those who wanted Him:**

Amos 3:2: (NASB) *You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; Therefore, I will punish you for all your iniquities. (Punishment for going off the track of godliness.)*

Israel's relationship with God would show them the necessary guidelines towards godly behavior as well as the harsh reality of following God in a vile world. The Law and its rituals were put in place to define sin, to remind them of who their God was and to separate them from all other peoples. For generations, the nation of Israel was to be the template and tool for understanding what it means to be godly.

*To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we must first need to know:*



God uses evil - He is NOT evil nor does He fall prey to it. For God, evil is a method to accomplish His plan.



A caller from Connecticut suggests: Our Heavenly Father has been misrepresented by well-meaning people. Quote from South African leader Desmond Tutu: "When the missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said, 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them, we had the Bible and they had the land."

Sometimes God is misrepresented by those who mean well.

**In this next text, God is speaking to Abram in a dream and telling him the future:**

Genesis 15:14-16: (NASB) *<sup>14</sup>But I will also judge the nation (Egypt) whom they (Israel) will serve, and afterward they will come out with many possessions. <sup>15</sup>As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age. <sup>16</sup>Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete. (Amorites symbolized the city states of Canaan.)*



There is a powerful principle here - God sees the sin in the people of the earth and *allows those sins to fester and grow without stopping them*. When some of these people were at odds with His people and their sins *had come to the full* He commanded their destruction! Now, those who would judge God will say "So, the innocent in those nations are just mercilessly destroyed?" Where is the fairness, justice and love in that? Sin is not fair. The world is not fair. God had mercy in mind. How? Remember the resurrection. God has eternity in control with an eternal plan.

 **Murder - killing the firstborn of Egypt, *Biblical Evidence Proving That God is Evil, Part 1***

- *The Flood example is bad enough but there are a few more examples I find particularly cruel. At midnight, the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on the throne to the firstborn of the prisoner who was in the dungeon. Instead of directly punishing Pharaoh and the Egyptians who disobeyed Him, God took it out on their firstborn males - many thousands of them who undoubtedly were babies and children who would never have the chance to grow up and make their own choices. God's idea of justice was to put innocent children to death, children who had done absolutely nothing wrong. How would we regard a human who did such a despicable act?*



Remember Israel was enslaved by the Egyptians for 142 years. They were abused and killed mercilessly as well. Historically, this was the way wars were fought - God or no God. You either wiped out the entire civilization (remember, these are people doing this who did not follow the God in the Bible) or you made the children and the survivors to be your slaves. Historical as that may be, there is a much bigger and better reason behind God's instructions!



Okay, God disciplines Adam and Eve and gets sued for violating their right to eat what they want. Safe spaces are now set up to keep them away from any obligation to be accountable to God. Parenting and being respected and being looked up to as a role model and footprints to walk in has been lost. Adults do not want to be responsible or trustworthy and kids now have the right to be the ones who will decide. Seriously, Satan is so clever. He has us wrapped around his finger. He has made God the bad guy.



*To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we must first need to know:*



God is above evil - His very character cannot violate the pure righteousness that He created.

(Source: [religioustolerance.org](http://religioustolerance.org)) one of the many acts of genocide commanded by God - In modern times we are appalled at such things... God hardened their hearts so Israel could destroy them...

### Let us now look at the prophecy given to Abraham being fulfilled:

Joshua 6:20-21: (NIV) <sup>20</sup>When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, **the wall collapsed**; so, every man charged straight in, and they took the city. <sup>21</sup>They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it--men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.



God arranged for those walls to tumble down so that evil could be conquered. It is harsh reality of the way war worked back then. But God has control of eternity and the resurrection will bring every one of those individuals back to life. The resurrection is part of God's plan!

### The "cleansing" of the land of Canaan:

Joshua 10:40-41: (NRSV) <sup>40</sup>So Joshua defeated the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings; he left no one remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel commanded. <sup>41</sup>And Joshua defeated them from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, as far as Gibeon.

The rules are different when living in the prison house of death and war was "kill or be killed." Living in the 21st century, we do not understand the harshness of the way the world was in those days.

Joshua 11:19-21: (NRSV) <sup>19</sup>There was not a town that made peace with the Israelites, except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon; all were taken in battle. <sup>20</sup>For it was the Lord's doing to harden (strengthen) their hearts so that they would come against Israel in battle, in order that they might be utterly destroyed, and might receive no mercy, but be exterminated, just as the LORD had commanded Moses. <sup>21</sup>At that time Joshua came and wiped out the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their towns.

For it was the Lord's doing to harden their hearts - He gave them the ability to strengthen what was already in their hearts. He did not make them do this; He just strengthened their resolve. The result was destruction.



**Genesis 15:16:** (KJV) *But in the fourth generation they shall come here again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.*

In this example, by the fourth generation of the Amorites, their sins were too great.

We note it has been almost four generations gone by since World War II. What kind of moral decay have we experienced in those four generations? As only one small example, look at how important the family unit was at that time, and it is now unrecognizable.

The natural outgrowth of sin and evil is death. But with destruction there is mercy, because God is in control of eternity and He promised a resurrection of the dead.

But how is it fair they all perished? It is not, but those are the rules of living in the prison house of sin and death. Nothing is fair any longer.

 **Stoning a relative for idolatry, *Biblical Evidence Proving That God is Evil, Part 1***

- *“If your very own brother or son or daughter or the wife you love or your friend secretly entices you saying, ‘Let us go and worship other gods,’ do not yield to him or listen to him. Show him no pity. Do not spare him or shield him. You must certainly put him to death. Your hand must be the first in putting him to death and then the hands of all the people. Stone him to death because he tried to turn you away from the Lord your God. Then all of Israel will hear and be afraid and no one among you will do such an evil thing again.” God ordered his followers to kill their own family members whose only crime was to suggest worshiping other gods. In the U.S. and other civilized countries, we consider freedom of religion a fundamental right and we believe that forcing someone to follow a specific religion is evil. That makes God downright un-American.*

Following other gods would have been a treasonous act for Israel, an outright defiance of the government that delivered them from slavery. It was against the Law. It was not a matter of freedom of religion, because their religion gave them freedom and blessing. It was a matter of acting against the righteousness of God Himself. Yes, it was a harsh sentence, but the resurrection will give them an opportunity to do right.



A CQ App user from Florida suggests: Anyone (who is willing to reason) that has ever been a parent or a caregiver to a child should understand God's position in handling the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Any good parent will use a child's disobedience as a tool to teach that child the right way to go. Isn't that the basic principle in God's plan for mankind? I think so.

**Left here it remains an answerable but difficult question - but there is more to God's plan than this:**

**Genesis 3:21:** (NASB) *The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.*

**There was a veiled picture of what would later come! God does reveal His plan if you look for it:**

**1 Timothy 2:5-6:** (KJV) <sup>5</sup>*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; <sup>6</sup>Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

The entire human experience is a teaching tool. Evil leads to death, obedience to life, but in all cases the experiences were bought with a price and the players will *all* have opportunity. That is the wisdom, justice, power and love of God.



## RICK'S EXPERIENCE

**Rick:** I had a recent experience with a young man I know very well. I had a good relationship with him. He is 20 years old and over the last few years has done some things that were horrible. He excoriated his family and walked away from his family by choice. He walked into a situation where he declared he wanted to go but it did not work out the way he wanted. He called me for help. I was there when he completely abused those he walked away from. There was no apology. He just walked away and left them all broken. He called me for help because he had no place to go. I drove to another city where he was. I sat down with him and fed him because he was hungry. I said to him, "Look, I cannot take you in, not after what you have done because you haven't made it right. But here, I can help you find a place." I gave him my cell phone and we made phone calls until we found a homeless shelter that he could go to. I drove him to the homeless shelter and I dropped him off and I drove away. Now, some people could look at that and say, "You are a cruel person." What he had done was wrong. There was no repentance and no desire to go back and make right what he had done. Using godly principles says we must experience the consequences of our actions. That is what happened in that circumstance. Was it easy? No. Was it right? Yes!

You could say to me, "You left that young man with no place to go?" Yes. It broke my heart. My love for him drove me to want him to experience the consequences of his actions. This has been an ongoing experience. He called me again for help with a situation that wasn't even legal. He wanted me to make the situation more comfortable. I said, "No, I cannot help you do something that is illegal." He lied and said it wasn't illegal. "How can I help you if you are going to lie?" At this point in time he does not like me but he does respect me. We still talk, and he understands where I am coming from. By God's grace, hopefully there will be lessons learned.

That is a microcosm of God dealing with us. He lets us hurt and mess up, because He loves us so much He wants us to learn.

### What about individuals? Did God sanction rape or abuse?

*To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we must first need to know:*



God is moral - His morality is eternal and He has used the human experience to teach it to us (again!)

**Deuteronomy 21:10-12:** (NASB) <sup>10</sup>When you go out to battle against your enemies, and the LORD your God delivers them into your hands and you take them away captive, <sup>11</sup>and see among the captives a beautiful woman, and have a desire for her and would take her as a wife for yourself, <sup>12</sup>then you shall bring her home to your house, and she shall shave her head and trim her nails.



At face value this is hideous. You kill a woman's family, take her captive, bring her home, humiliate her and then marry her?

We need to see the entire picture to understand the way the world was and see the mercy of God in this.

**Deuteronomy 21:13-14:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>*She shall also remove the clothes of her captivity and shall remain in your house, and mourn her father and mother a full month; and after that you may go in to her and be her husband and she shall be your wife.*

(Source: Biblical Commentator Matthew Poole) To express her sorrow for the loss of her father and mother, as it follows, Deuteronomy 21:13, it being the ancient custom of mourners in most nations to shave themselves, and in some to pare their nails, in others to suffer them to grow. Or rather, in token of her renouncing her heathenish idolatry and superstition, and of her becoming a new woman, and embracing the true religion; which her captive condition and subjection to his will would make her inclinable to do in profession.

<sup>14</sup>*It shall be, if you are not pleased with her, then you shall let her go wherever she wishes; but you shall certainly not sell her for money, you shall not mistreat her, because you have humbled her.*

Women of that time had few rights in most cultures, a result of the curse upon Eve - because of the prison house rules. That was part of the penalty - from then on, women would be subject to the commands of their husbands. Here it speaks of taking someone as a wife, therefore with all the rights and respect of a wife and not a slave. This shows respect for the woman's life and experience. Again, we see here a focus on land and people - a physical focus for a physical nation to show a physical example of the results of the curse. We can look at how unbalanced the society was then but also see how unbalanced our society is today.

### Jephthah's daughter, *Biblical Evidence Proving That God is Evil, Part 2*

- *"And Jephthah made a vow to the Lord, if you give the Ammonites into my hands, whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the Lord's and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering. Then Jephthah went over to fight the Ammonites and the Lord gave them into his hands. When Jephthah returned to his home in Mizpah, who should come out to meet him but his daughter? And he did to her." Since God is all knowing He knew Jephthah's daughter would be the one to walk out to meet her father. Yet even though God was supposedly against human sacrifice He still carried out His end of the bargain by helping Jephthah defeat his enemies. Jephthah then fulfilled his part by making a burnt offering of his daughter.*

God was not in favor of human sacrifice. He was allowing the sin to take its effect. Jephthah was foolish but he made a vow to God. The Scriptures are clear about not breaking a vow to God. Sin costs life and happiness and creates discontent and sorrow. God does not stop us from our foolishness, but He will raise us up despite it.

Editor's Note: Although not discussed on air, we believe this difficult text is better explained that the sacrifice was of the daughter not marrying and having a family, which would have been a crowning accomplishment in that culture. Please see the Bonus Material for more on the scriptural reasoning behind this conclusion.



Godless dictators have been the biggest contributors to death “by human decision” in history.

(Source: Deaths in Wars and Conflicts in the 20th Century - Milton Leitenberg. CORNELL UNIVERSITY PEACE STUDIES PROGRAM, OCCASIONAL PAPER #29. 3rd ed. ©August 2003, 2005, 2006)

“A Beastly Century” It was a phrase used by Margaret Drabble, a British novelist, in an address to the Royal Society of Literature in London, on December 14, 2000. But of course, it was no more than a human century. In 1994, the historian Eric Hobsbawm wrote that 187 million people were “killed or allowed to die by human decision” in what he called the “short century” - a period of about 75 years from 1914 to 1991... Given that Hobsbawm is a Marxist historian, his choice of the category “by human decision” was particularly significant. However, the sum that he provided was low by just about 44 million people for the full twentieth century, during which approximately 231 million people died in wars and conflict and, in very large numbers, “by human decision.”

People who do not believe in God and want to make God the murderer need to realize those without God are the greater murderers.

**No matter where or when one lives - everyone will be accountable:**

**Romans 14:11-12:** (NRSV) <sup>11</sup>For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God. <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**What is God’s end game? Will He just continue to use evil as a tool forever?**



This is no longer God’s world. Satan took it over because of humanity’s weakness and inexperience. God let us go down that road to learn what it is like to live in Satan’s world. God shows His people how to navigate through this world to keep us from the evil in it.



 **Animal sacrifices, Biblical Evidence Proving That God is Evil, Part 2**

- Slaughtering animals and especially humans to gain the favor of gods is something people in civilized countries view as barbaric, disgusting, and yes, even evil. Yet for some reason despite the God of the Bible supposedly being all powerful, He was unable to forgive His followers unless they killed and burned animals for Him. “Make an altar of earth for Me, and sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, your sheep and goats and your cattle.” And in fact, the Law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness, and several times throughout Leviticus it is a burnt offering, an offering made by fire, an aroma pleasing to the Lord.



### **Animal sacrifice was a picture to remind us justice was required:**

**Deuteronomy 19:21:** (ESV) *Your eye shall not pity. It shall be life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.*

Our next example is the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and again there is overwhelming evidence of great evil. See **Genesis 18:15-33:** *...Not even ten righteous therein.* The offering of Lot's daughters to the mob was a show of Lot's own weakness, but the visiting angels protected them.

(Source: [religioustolerance.org](http://religioustolerance.org)) a murder based on "lack of hospitality" or sexual preference. Further, Lot's wife is murdered for simply looking the wrong way...

This was not a lack of hospitality! They were dark and evil in the way they lived.

**Genesis 19:15-17, 23-26:** (NRSV) <sup>15</sup>*When morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, get up, take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or else you will be consumed in the punishment of the city...Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere in the Plain; flee to the hills, or else you will be consumed.* <sup>23</sup>*The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar.* <sup>24</sup>*Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven;* <sup>25</sup>*and he overthrew those cities, and all the Plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.* <sup>26</sup>*But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt. (This was probably a volcanic eruption. She was in the line of fire. She was behind the rest because she did not want to leave.)*

### **This was NOT a final judgment on those cities, it was however an appropriate prison house judgment:**

**Matthew 11:23-24:** (NRSV) <sup>23</sup>*And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades (the grave or pit - under the ground.) For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.* <sup>24</sup>*But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.*

Capernaum was a city where Jesus preached. Miracles were done in Capernaum and they rejected him. Jesus' response to them was, "If Sodom had been visited by me (Jesus) and I had done the things I've done for you, they would not have met with destruction. They would have seen God's goodness and glory." *But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.* Both cities will be there in the resurrection but it will be easier for the people of Sodom than those of Capernaum who watched Jesus.

God does not interfere with our free choices. God, through Jesus, truly does have a plan - spoken of in ancient times and carried out through the ages of history. He began humanity in an environment for success and will bring humanity back to that environment, only now with the incalculable understanding of the depths of evil and sin! The evil done today and in ancient times will be learned from in the resurrection.

**Isaiah 6:8-11:** (NASB) <sup>8</sup>*Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then I said, here am I. Send me!* <sup>9</sup>*He said, Go, and tell this people: Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand.* <sup>10</sup>*Render the hearts of this people insensitive, their ears dull, and their eyes dim, otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and return and be healed. (This is a picture of Jesus coming to earth.)* <sup>11</sup>*Then I said, Lord, how long? And He answered, until cities are devastated and without inhabitant, houses are without people and the land is utterly desolate.*

We see thus far that the strict justice approach did not in any way finish the work of reconciling the physical creation of man to God. On the other hand, it only served to identify sin and how far the sinful race of man was away from God. More would need to be done - much more for this was just the beginning - the foundation of the work of God towards His creation. The New Testament builds on that foundation.



Isaiah 11:9: (KJV) *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Never have we seen a world that looks like that, but God promises this will happen.

Isaiah 55:11: (NRSV) *so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

When God speaks prophecy, we see the goodness and greatness, but we do not see the prophecies being fulfilled before our eyes right now. What we see are the effects - the sadness, the degradation of sin - because we are in that prison house of sin and death. The rules are terrible! In the prison house of sin and death there is no fairness, justice or mercy. There will come a time when sin has run its full course because Jesus gave his life. God will say, "That is enough. Now, let us raise man from the dead." They will be given the opportunity to see God as He is and they can come to Him and make the choice of righteousness.

*So, why do some think God is a monster?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



The story of Jephthah's daughter is difficult to read. While some view the texts as saying Jephthah actually sacrificed (killed) his daughter, we do not believe this is the best scriptural way of understanding what actually happened.

Judges 11:29-35: (NASB) <sup>29</sup>Now the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, so that he passed through Gilead and Manasseh; then he passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he went on to the sons of Ammon. <sup>30</sup>Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, If You will indeed give the sons of Ammon into my hand, <sup>31</sup>then it shall be that whatever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the sons of Ammon, it shall be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up as a burnt offering. <sup>32</sup>So Jephthah crossed over to the sons of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD gave them into his hand. <sup>33</sup>He struck them with a very great slaughter from Aroer to the entrance of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim. So the sons of Ammon were subdued before the sons of Israel. <sup>34</sup>When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, behold, his daughter was coming out to meet him with tambourines and with dancing. Now she was his one and only child; besides her he had no son or daughter. <sup>35</sup>When he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you are among those who trouble me; for I have given my word to the LORD, and I cannot take it back.

This does sound ominous. Notice how the vow is made by Jephthah: *...offer it up as a burnt offering, but keep reading:*

Judges 11:36-40: (NASB) <sup>36</sup>So she said to him, My father, you have given your word to the LORD; do to me as you have said, since the LORD has avenged you of your enemies, the sons of Ammon. <sup>37</sup>She said to her father, Let this thing be done for me; let me alone two months, that I may go to the mountains and weep because of my virginity, I and my companions.

Several commentators note that this request of Jephthah's daughter actually explains what was to happen. They note that for women in Israel, to have a family was the crowning accomplishment of their lives. Jephthah's daughter's life was to be offered to God - it was to be put in the service of God only and that would forfeit her rights to a family. You see, her life offered up AS a burnt offering (meaning with



the same results as a burnt offering) signified that there could be no retuning from the commitment, that she had no possibility of a family - ever. She accepted this and went to mourn the loss for two months.

*<sup>38</sup>Then he said, Go. So he sent her away for two months; and she left with her companions, and wept on the mountains because of her virginity. <sup>39</sup>At the end of two months she returned to her father, who did to her according to the vow which he had made; and she had no relations with a man. Thus it became a custom in Israel, <sup>40</sup>that the daughters of Israel went yearly to commemorate the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.*

The end of the account is actually showing what happened as a result of the vow - no human sacrifice at all, rather she never had a husband or a family and the daughters of Israel had great respect for her devotion as a result.

By reading the context of the text, the more clear understanding is revealed.

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Satan, the author of the “different road” humanity is now on is the major influencer in our world, yet God can ultimately use his influence for the good of all:

**The father of lies and a murderer:**

John 8:44: (NRSV) *You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

These next three are clearly related:

**The ruler of this world:**

John 12:31-32: (NRSV) *<sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*

**The god of this world:**

2 Corinthians 4:3-4: (NRSV) *<sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world (age) has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

**The prince of the power of the air:**

Ephesians 2:1-2: (KJV) *<sup>1</sup>And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: <sup>2</sup>Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

He has gone from being mighty, wise and privileged to being as far as we know, the greatest defector from the grace and benevolence of God in all of God's creation. There no longer is any good thing in him for he has taken all that was good and polluted it with godless ego and darkness. His power, drive and intelligence can and will only lead to death!



## Two more accusations against God:

- The God of the Old Testament orders cannibalism:

### You might want to check the context on that:

**Leviticus 26:3-5:** (NASB) <sup>3</sup>If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out, <sup>4</sup>then I shall give you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit. <sup>5</sup>Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land.

### Walk with God and the land will produce...

**Leviticus 26:21-29:**(NASB) <sup>21</sup>If then, you act with hostility against Me and are unwilling to obey Me, I will increase the plague on you seven times according to your sins. <sup>22</sup>I will let loose among you the beasts of the field, which will bereave you of your children and destroy your cattle and reduce your number so that your roads lie deserted. <sup>23</sup>And if by these things you are not turned to Me, but act with hostility against Me, <sup>24</sup>then I will act with hostility against you; and I, even I, will strike you seven times for your sins... <sup>26</sup>When I break your staff of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will bring back your bread in rationed amounts, so that you will eat and not be satisfied. <sup>27</sup>Yet if in spite of this you do not obey Me, but act with hostility against Me, <sup>28</sup>then I will act with wrathful hostility against you, and I, even I, will punish you seven times for your sins. <sup>29</sup>Further, you will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters you will eat.

The consequence for continued disobedience will be even more severe until you reach a point of utter desperation. Notice that it is all about the land and the physical people.

- The God of the Old Testament slaughters innocent children for merely being immature:

**2 Kings 2:19-25:** (NASB) <sup>19</sup>Then the men of the city said to Elisha, Behold now, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad and the land is unfruitful... <sup>21</sup>He went out to the spring of water and threw salt in it and said, Thus says the LORD, I have purified these waters; there shall not be from there death or unfruitfulness any longer. <sup>22</sup>So the waters have been purified to this day, according to the word of Elisha which he spoke. <sup>23</sup>Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up by the way, young lads came out from the city and mocked him and said to him, go up, you baldhead; go up, you baldhead! <sup>24</sup>When he looked behind him and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the LORD. Then two female bears came out of the woods and tore up forty-two lads of their number. <sup>25</sup>He went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

(Source: John Gill's Exposition of the Bible) There came forth little children out of the city; the word for "children" is used of persons of thirty or forty years of age; and though these are said to be "little," they were so well grown as to be able to go forth out of the city of themselves, without any to guide them, or to take care of them; and were of an age capable not only of taking notice of Elijah's baldness, but knew him to be a prophet, and were able to distinguish between good and evil; and, from a malignant spirit in them, mocked at him as such, and at the assumption of Elijah...

Young = young, small, insignificant, unimportant

Did God do this? No! Did He allow it? Yes. Why? He allowed the forces of nature to depict the wrath of the Creator of nature, upon the mockery of those who would represent him, especially after the prophet had just cured the waters of the city of bitterness.

The result of God's plan:

### The world will be judged righteously... All of them:

**Jeremiah 31:29-34:** (KJV) <sup>29</sup>In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge. <sup>30</sup>But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge. <sup>31</sup>Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: <sup>32</sup>Not



according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: <sup>33</sup>But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

### **The world will be healed... All of them:**

Isaiah 35:5-10: (KJV) <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup>Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. <sup>7</sup>And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **The world will be able to choose to willingly follow God:**

Zechariah 8:20-23: (KJV) <sup>20</sup>Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: <sup>21</sup>And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. <sup>22</sup>Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

**Once righteousness is chosen, the world will ultimately live in peace.**