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Why Do Some Think God is a Monster?

Exodus 20:5-6: (NASB) ⁵*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, ⁶but 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.

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..."** 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 and John 11:35.

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.

To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we 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: 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.

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.

To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we first need to know: **God has a plan - He is not impetuous or egotistical. He is wise, just and loving.**

Genesis 1:28-31: 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.

(See the Full Edition Rewind for the audio clip played about death from the Flood.)

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 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: 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.

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.

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.

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:** 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 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: 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 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.**

In this next text, God is speaking to Abram in a dream and telling him the future: Genesis 15:14-16: (Please see the Full Edition Rewind for the discussion on these texts.)

(See the Full Edition Rewind for the audio clip played about the killing of the firstborn of Egypt.) 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!

To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we first need to know: **God is above evil - His very character cannot violate the pure righteousness that He created.**

Let us now look at the prophecy given to Abraham being fulfilled: Joshua 6:20-21: 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: 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: *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.

(See the Full Edition Rewind for the audio clip played about being stoned to death for idolatry.)

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.

Left here it remains an answerable but difficult question - but there is more to God's plan than this: Genesis 3:21 **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: 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.

To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we 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: (Please see the Full Edition Rewind for the discussion on these texts and the audio clip played about Jephthah's daughter.)

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 Rewind Full Edition 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

To understand the shocking and almost unreadable accounts in the Bible, we first need to know: **God's plan for humanity includes the destruction of evil from our world - He told us this in the Bible.**

(See the Full Edition Rewind for the audio clip played about animal sacrifices in the Old Testament.) **Animal sacrifice was a picture to remind us justice was required:** Deuteronomy 19:21

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.

Genesis 19:15-17, 23-26: (Please see the Full Edition Rewind for the discussion on these texts.)

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: 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: Never have we seen a world that looks like that, but God promises this will happen. Isaiah 55:11: 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...!***