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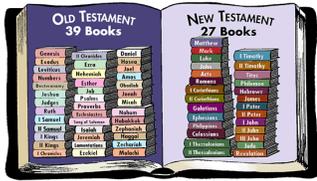
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Does the Same God Rule in the Old and New Testament?

Isaiah 45:7: (KJV) *I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things. OR...*

1 John 4:8: (KJV) *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*



Ours is a world of great contradiction. Some say the ends justify the means, and others say that the means are an end in themselves. Some say equal treatment is giving everyone the same while others say that equal treatment is giving each what they need. Some say that there is a higher judge of morality, while others say that those whom it affects can only determine morality. Some say that God is a God of dual personality - the Old Testament God of anger and the New Testament God of love. Others say (and by others we mean us!) that God is one and His purpose is one. Stay with us as we seek to demonstrate WHY God is the same glorious God in both the Old and New Testaments!

The following are **false accusations** about our Father by those who, we believe, simply do not understand Him either through ignorance or choice. We state these accusations here as we have heard them, so that we may answer them one at a time.

“THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS A MERCILESS KILLER OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE NAME OF CONQUEST!” **1 Samuel 15:3:** (NASB) *Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death, both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.*

“THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT ORDERS CANNIBALISM!” **Leviticus 26:29:** (NASB) *Further, you will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters you will eat.*

“THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BLESSES THE MURDER OF CHILDREN!” **Psalms 137:8-9:** (NASB) *⁸O daughter of Babylon, you devastated one, how blessed will be the one who repays you with the recompense with which you have repaid us. ⁹How blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones against the rock.*

“THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS A VENGEFUL AND ANGRY GOD!” **Numbers 11:33:** (NASB) *While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very severe plague.*

“THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS A RACIST!” **Deuteronomy 7:6:** (NASB) *For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.*

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

“THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SLAUGHTERS INNOCENT CHILDREN FOR BEING IMMATURE!” **2 Kings 2:23-24:** (NASB) *²³Then 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! ²⁴When 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.*

“THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS THE AUTHOR OF EVIL!” **Isaiah 45:7**

As we go through this program, we will work with two basic principles that we believe: 1) God is the author of life and 2) God is a God of eternity.



Bad example, Richard Dawkins, God of the Old Testament

- The God of the Old Testament has got to be the most unpleasant character in all fiction. Jealous and proud of it. Petty, vindictive, unjust, unforgiving, racist, an ethnic cleanser urging His people on to acts of genocide. If God doesn't set a good moral example, who does? Abraham, the founding father of all three great monotheistic religions? The man who would willingly make a burnt offering with his son Isaac? Maybe not.*

We will look at the accusations against God in the perspective of Him having a plan. Let's start at the beginning. **The disobedient actions by Adam and Eve produced a number of significant consequences:**

- Disobedience equals sin Genesis 2:15-17
- Sin equals death *...for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.*

They made a new allegiance. They were given a choice to suspend their allegiance to God and follow Satan instead. They had God's advice: Do this and live; disobey and die. Satan contradicted the advice from their Creator and they decided to follow Satan. Genesis 3:4-5
2 Corinthians 4:4 We are now born under the allegiance to Satan and Satan's guidance put in place in the Garden of Eden. **But God's foresight and character is shown in the hope He gave in the midst of these sins:** Genesis 3:13-15: If we understand that God is a God of time who has a plan, we see that at the very entrance of sin into mankind's world, His plan was already beginning to be revealed.

So, what are the generational consequences of sin entering?

- Humankind was created to live in the Garden. This is what our destiny was *supposed to be.*
- Adam and Eve were banished as a result of choosing sin and allegiance to Satan.
- They were unable to re-enter the Garden as a consequence.
- Therefore all generations to follow are now subject to our first parents' *choice* as to where to live - essentially in the prison-house of sin and death where the rules would change to rules of imperfection and shortsighted mortality.

Now experiences of humankind would be in the context of sin. This was not God's original intention, but He gave Adam a choice. If you are living in a prison-house, the rules are different than if you are free. As a race, we are not free. We are bound by sin. Psalms 51:5:
Romans 3:23 We must clearly define God by analyzing the whole story, the whole picture, and not just cherry-picking certain stories or specific Scriptures. For critics, we would ask if they are looking at the Bible to prove their point or to find the truth? The stories must be reviewed in the context of when they were written and then in the context of the overall plan of God.

Chaos in context - beginning to explain specific events in the context of their time

Let's now take a look at the accusations against God one at a time: "THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS THE MERCILESS KILLS OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE NAME OF CONQUEST!" Samuel 15:1-3: Why would a God of love instruct such a horrible act? We need to point out that at the time these accounts happened, these were generally the rules of war. This seems hideous now.

(Source: Biblical commentator McGee) These instructions may seem extreme to you if you are not familiar with the history of Amalek: Deuteronomy 25:17-19: *Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it...* Apparently Saul spared some of these people, and when we come to the Book of Esther, we will get acquainted with one of them, Haman. He tried to exterminate the Hebrew nation and would have succeeded had not God intervened. When we get God's perspective we understand His immediate action.

Harsh, yes! The rules of the "prison house of sin" require the labeling of sin through the eyes of strict justice. In order for the God of time - the God of a plan - to put His plan in order, He first had to label sin as "sin." It was allowed to grow and to be understood by the people. To reclaim all people, the first order would be to clearly define sin's consequences. God's law was just in the context of an unjust world and required the same harsh punishment of the enemies of God's people as those enemies themselves would have meted out to Israel. They fought back the same way they were fought against. These were the rules of battle that *man* made up - how nation dealt with nation. God allowed the human will to be fulfilled. Why couldn't God's people have fought back on a "higher plane?" Because they were in a world of sin and death. At that point in the plan of God, the mission was to label sin. God is the author of life and of resurrection. God created life and could order life to be extinguished, but He also had a plan to resurrect those lives through Jesus and the ransom. We can't look at it as just a single event in time. We have to view it through the lens of eternity.



"THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT ORDERS CANNIBALISM!" **Might want to check the context on that:** Leviticus 26:3-5: So, walk with God and the land will produce, but we need to keep reading this chapter...Leviticus 26:21-29: God was very clearly requiring obedience and laid out the consequence for continued disobedience. The eventual deprivation would be so severe that the people would reach utter desperation and starve to death. Is God "doing that" to them? No, they are doing it to themselves. This was a result of them not listening. God did NOT tell them to eat their children! This tells us of the severity of living in the prison house of sin and death. We are subject to terrible things on a daily basis.



God's Kill Count in the Old Testament, Atheist program

- *These are the murders committed personally by the God himself: Everyone in the whole world except for Noah and his family, Lot's wife, and all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah (except for Lot who was considered good because he offered his virgin daughters to a mob of men and then slept with both of them himself later.) God burned all the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, according to the Bible.*

"THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BLESSES THE MURDER OF CHILDREN!" We need to look at the **CONTEXT**: of the Bible itself, of eternity and of God, the Creator of life. Psalms 137:7-9

(Source: Bible Commentator Alfred Barnes) This refers to what was not uncommon in ancient warfare, as it is now among savage tribes - the indiscriminate slaughter of those of all ages, and of both sexes, in war. It was expressly foretold of Babylon that this would occur, (see Isaiah 13:16, and the notes at that place) and there may be a reference here to that prediction, and the psalmist may mean to say that the man would be accounted happy, or would be happy, who wreaked vengeance on Babylon in carrying out that prophecy.

The prophecies of God are always fulfilled. God does not change the manner of warfare among sinful men, nor does He shrink at the application of justice in a world ruled by sin. God did not invent the manner of ancient warfare, but He did allow man to destroy his fellow man after man's own heart. When dealing with other nations, they would fight each other in the same manner. God simply allowed what mankind put in place to continue. He was teaching an eternal lesson of the consequences of living in a sinful way.

Context for the nation of Israel Exodus 34:1-17: Here we begin to see how God dealt with Israel as a physical nation - it was all about the land, the people and whom they would worship. This was a very physical relationship, and therefore the Law, instruction and consequences would all be physical as well. Why such a physical approach? God is a God of eternity - to reclaim a physical creation from sin, He would first set the physical standard of acceptability within their sinful physical world.

"THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT IS A RACIST!" Deuteronomy 7:6: ...**How about reading the rest of the verse?** Deuteronomy 7:7-11: So God chose the *lesser* of the peoples of that time. His choice for blessing also carried the consequences for disobedience. God was looking for faithfulness, for those who would be willing to follow His ways in the midst of disobedience. God drew people to a higher standard.



God's Kill Count in the Old Testament, Atheist Program

- *...Er, Judah's first born son, Er's brother Onan, the firstborn of all of Egypt, the Pharaoh and all of his army in the Red Sea, Nadab and Abihu who were killed by God because He was upset that they made a fire. Some Jews were burned for complaining. A plague was sent against the Jews for being greedy. Another plague was sent to the Jews who gave the chosen land a bad report that killed eleven of said Jews. Korah and the other Jews who didn't like Moses were killed.*

"THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SANCTIONS RAPE!" Deuteronomy 21:10-12: How could God command this? **Let's first go through the rest of the verse to see what He required of them if they were to do this:** Deuteronomy 21:13-14: She was no longer treated as a captive; she was now a member of his household. After one month, he could marry her. Respect was required. Women of that time had few rights in most cultures, a result of the curse upon Eve. Here it speaks of taking someone as a wife - therefore with all the rights and respect of a wife - not a slave. This shows respect for the woman's life and experience. And if women and children were left behind from the battlefield, how would they survive?

(Source: Bible Commentary by 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. 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.

God works within the rules of the society in place at the time. 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. God is a God of reconciliation. He allowed sin to come to its full fruition over several thousand years so that humankind for all of eternity will be able to look back on the experience and say, "That wasn't worth it!" We will see that no matter what form of government we tried, no matter what level of technology we achieved, it all ended badly.

"THE GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SLAUGHTERS INNOCENT CHILDREN FOR BEING IMMATURE!"

2 Kings 2:19-25: (Source: Bible Commentary by John Gill) 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 Elisha'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: Hebrew Lexicon, 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.

 **God's Kill Count in the Old Testament, Atheist Program**

- *...Haman's army of five hundred and ten people, more of that army at seventy five-thousand and three hundred people. And we're finally done with the things actually listed in the Bible. That totals - are you ready for this folks - more than two million, seventeen thousand, nine hundred and fifty-six people ordered killed, according to the Bible by the God of the Bible. That is, of course, not counting any of the groups for which the Bible doesn't give an exact figure, like everybody on earth except for Noah and his family. This is not even counting sixty-five entire cities listed in the Bible as destroyed and their residents slain by order of the God where they didn't bother to give the exact figures of how many dead.*

Even if this number is higher, we have explained how God in the Old Testament works in the context of a sinful world and eternity at the same time. What about us? If we are going to be so bold as to point a finger at God at say, "You did this," let's look in the mirror of human history. We don't even have to review 6,000 years. Take just the last 100 years of human history. For those who label God as a monster because he had 6 or 7 million people kills over 6,000 years, note this:

Deaths in Wars and Conflicts in the 20th Century - Milton Leitenberg - CORNELL UNIVERSITY, PEACE STUDIES PROGRAM, OCCASIONAL PAPER #29, Third edition, ©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."

Who is the monster? Who killed more? We did!

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. It was a labeling process over several thousands of years. More would need to be done - much more - for this was just the beginning. It was the foundation of the work of God towards His creation. He allowed mankind to fight along the lines of how mankind decided wars should be fought. Those were the ways of sin. It was only a piece of the process God was putting in place for the reconciliation of mankind. God is the God of life, the God of resurrection, and the God of time!

***So, does the same God rule in the Old and New Testament?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***