

Troubling Images of God In the Old Testament



The God I Don't Understand...

- ✦ Introduction and Feedback from You
 - ✦ The “Goofy” Laws of the Old Testament and their Application to Christians Today
 - ✦ The “Crude” Laws Jesus Seemed to “Correct”
 - ✦ Patriarchy, Women, Polygamy and Concubinage
 - ✦ Slavery and Human Trafficking
 - ✦ Massacres / Ethnic Cleansing
- Troubling Images Part 1*

Why Take On This Series?

- ✦ Christians genuinely have questions about the images of God they see in the Old Testament.
- ✦ Most of us have received entirely unsatisfactory answers, and instead choose to ignore the issues.
- ✦ The goal is not to “solve” for God as if He were a the sum total of our rational proofs.
- ✦ The goal is to ask deep questions about the character of God, and come away changed – more deeply in love with God – as a result.

What We Are Not Going To Do:

- ✦ Solve (or even address) every Old Testament difficulty.
- ✦ Eliminate the need for faith, or demand a faith standard requiring God to justify Himself to us.
- ✦ Take the easy route by claiming that the people who recorded our Scriptures only *thought* that God said or commanded those things.

Nothing New...

Marcion of Sinope, 2nd Century:

Believed that the wrathful Hebrew God was a separate and lower entity than the all-forgiving God of the New Testament.

Excommunicated from the church as a heretic.



A Jealous God

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it...”

- Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*



A Jealous God

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it...”

- Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

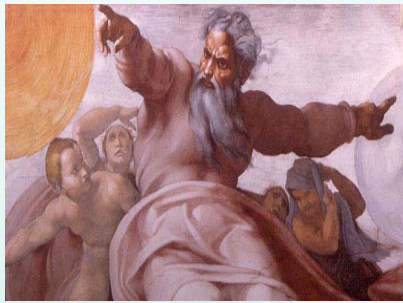


A Jealous God

“Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.” Exodus 34:14

“For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.” Deuteronomy 4:23-25

“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I speak in my jealous wrath because you have suffered the scorn of the nations.” Ezekiel 36:6b



A Jealous God

*He is jealous for me
Love's like a hurricane, I am a tree
Bending beneath the weight of His wind and mercy
When all of a sudden,
I am unaware of these afflictions eclipsed by glory
and I realize just how beautiful You are and how great
your affections are for me.
Oh, how He loves us so
Oh, how He loves us
How He loves us so.*

- John Mark McMillan
"How He Loves Us"

Troubling Images Part 1



A Jealous God

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”

*- Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion**



A Jealous God

“The God Delusion makes me embarrassed to be an atheist.”

- Dr. Michael Ruse, Atheist Philosopher

[Dawkins and Hitchens] invariably come up with vulgar caricatures of religious faith that would make a first-year theology student wince. The more they detest religion, the more ill-informed their criticisms of it tend to be.”

- Terry Eagleton, Professor of English Literature and Cultural Theory



A Jealous God

*What Questions Do You Have
About The Images of God
Found in the Old Testament?*



A Jealous God

Next Week:
*Which Laws Are
We To Keep?*

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF
EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.

WE WELCOME YOU TO SEND
FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS OR
COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD
LOVE TO HEAR HOW EXODUS HAS
IMPACTED YOU. EMAIL US AT:

[INFO@EXODUSPODCASTS.COM](mailto:info@exoduspodcasts.com)

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

[WWW.EXODUSPODCASTS.COM](http://www.exoduspodcasts.com)

- ☑ ALL OF OUR PODCASTS
- ☑ POWERPOINT SLIDES
- ☑ PODCAST TRANSCRIPTS
- ☑ BLOG UPDATES
- ☑ REFERENCE MATERIALS

© 2013 EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
YOU MAY FREELY DISTRIBUTE WITHOUT ALTERATION.



INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

[Read more](#)

THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

[Read more](#)

FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

[Read more](#)