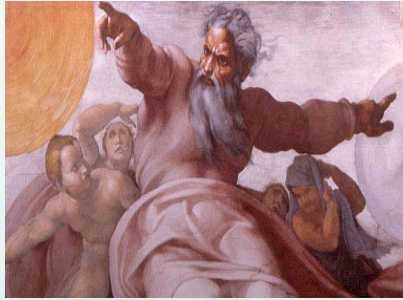


Troubling Images of God In the Old Testament

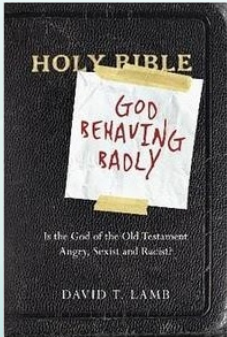




The God I Don't Understand...

- ✦ Introduction and Feedback from You
- ✦ The “Strange” 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 and Ethnic Cleansing

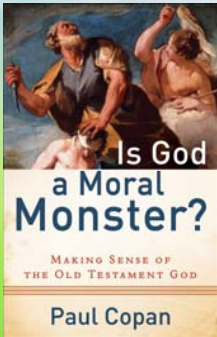
Read Along:



God Behaving Badly:

Is the God of the Old Testament Angry, Sexist and Racist?

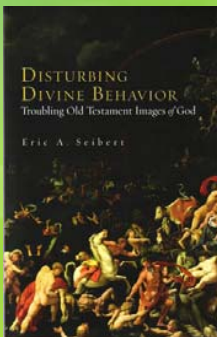
by David. T. Lamb



Is God a Moral Monster:

Making Sense of the Old Testament God

by Paul Copan



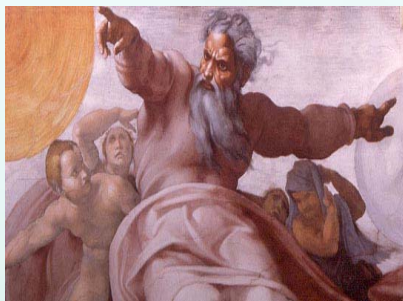
Disturbing Divine Behavior:

Troubling Old Testament Images of God

by Eric A. Seibert



Troubling Images Part 3



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, so instead we just ignore the issues entirely.



Where We Left Off...

**What relevance does the Law have
for Christians today?**



Does the Law Still Apply?

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”



Does the Law Still Apply?

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

Fulfill –

- (a) accomplish, obey**
- (b) to bring out the full meaning**
- (c) to complete (bring to its intended culmination)**

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of a pen, will by any means
thing is accomplished.*

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Matthew 5:17-20

Troubling Images Part 3



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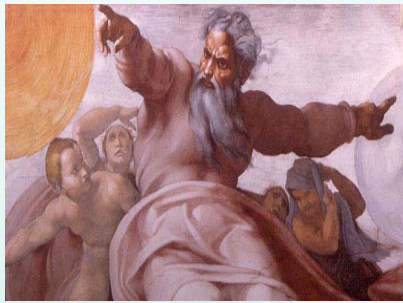
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Troubling Images Part 3



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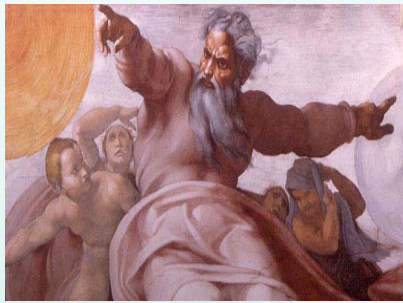
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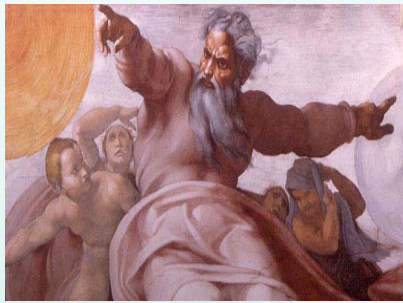
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Does the Law Still Apply?

1. The law has not been set aside
2. The law has been fulfilled by Jesus.
3. Any continued application of the law must be reinterpreted in light of Jesus' teachings and His fulfillment of the law.
4. As a result of 1-3 above, most of the purposes of the law do not apply to us today as a result of Jesus' teachings, His fulfillment of the law and the original purposes of the law.



So Does the Law Apply?

Sabbath ✦ Circumcision ✦ Dietary Restrictions

Exodus 31:15b

“Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day is to be put to death.”

Numbers 15:32, 35

“A man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. . . . Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘The man must die. The whole assembly must stone him outside the camp.’ ”

Matthew 12:1-12

Jesus’ disciples pick grain on the Sabbath, and Jesus heals on the Sabbath.

“I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. For the Son of Man is the Lord of the Sabbath.”

Mark 2:27

“The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”

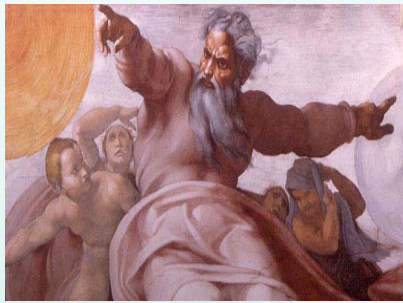


So Does the Law Apply?

Sabbath ✦ Circumcision ✦ Dietary Restrictions

Colossians 2:16-17

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.”



So Does the Law Apply?

Sabbath ✦ Circumcision ✦ Dietary Restrictions

Exodus 12:48

“A foreigner residing among you who wants to celebrate the LORD’s Passover must have all the males in his household circumcised; then he may take part like one born in the land. No uncircumcised male may eat it.”

Leviticus 12:3

“On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised.”

Acts 15:1, 6, 10-11:

“Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: ‘Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.’ . . . The apostles and elders met to consider this question. After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: . . . ‘Why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.’”



So Does the Law Apply?

Sabbath ✦ Circumcision ✦ Dietary Restrictions

The Law:

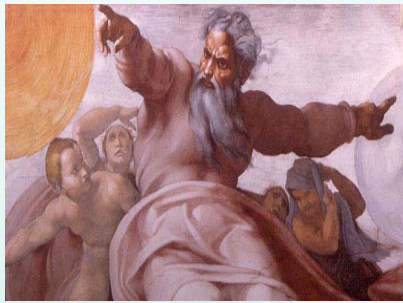
Filled with Dietary Restrictions.

Mark 7:18-20

“ ‘Are you so dull?’ he asked. ‘Don’t you see that nothing that enters a person from the outside can defile them? For it doesn’t go into their heart but into their stomach, and then out of the body.’ (In saying this, Jesus declared all foods clean.) He went on: ‘What comes out of a person is what defiles them.’ ”

Acts: 10:14-15:

“Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.” The voice spoke to him a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made.”

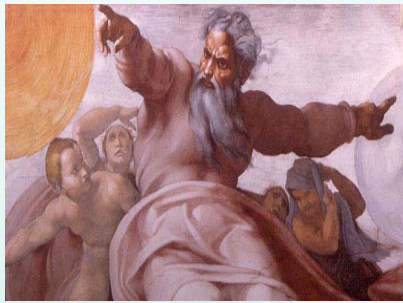


How Do We Love?

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. . . .

One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

- Excerpts of Romans 14



How Do We Love?

Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. I am convinced, being fully persuaded in the Lord Jesus, that nothing is unclean in itself. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for that person it is unclean. If your brother or sister is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. . . . For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. . . .

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother or sister to fall. So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.

- Excerpts of Romans 14



Next Week...

You Could Be Put To Death For:

Striking your father or mother (Exodus 21:15)

Kidnapping a person (Exodus 21:16)

Cursing your father or mother (Exodus 21:17)

Doing work on the sabbath (Exodus 31:15b)

Committing adultery (both parties killed) (Lev. 20:10)

Having sex with an animal (Lev. 20:15-16)

Being a medium or a wizard (Lev. 20:27)

Blaspheming the Lord (Lev. 24:16)

and several others...

Troubling Images Part 3



WELCOME TO EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM



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](#)

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF
EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.

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COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD
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