

SHADOW & REALITY

Strip Away All the Concessions and Accommodations and You Get A God Who Looks Like Jesus

“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction: jealous, and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving, control freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty, ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist; infanticidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously, malevolent bully.” Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* p. 57

Biblical Examples:
Genesis 19.24
2 Kings 1.10

Luke 7.28—I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Polygamy
Slavery
King
Nationalism

Deuteronomy 23.1-6—No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the LORD. No one born of a forbidden marriage nor any offspring from such a marriage may enter the assembly of the LORD, not even in the tenth generation. No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, not even in the tenth generation. . . . Do not seek a treaty of friendship with them as long as you live.

Isaiah 56.3-7—Let no foreigners who have bound themselves to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely exclude me from his people.” And let no eunuch complain, “I am only a dry tree.” For this is what the LORD says: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever. And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD

Colossians 2.16-17—Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a **SHADOW** of what is to come, but the **SUBSTANCE** belongs to Christ.

Hebrews 10.1-6—Since the law has only a shadow of the good things to come and not the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered year after year, make perfect those who approach. Otherwise, would they not have ceased being offered, since the worshipers, cleansed once for all, would no longer have any consciousness of sin? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sin year after year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Matthew 12.7—But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless.

Hosea 6.6—For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

John 5.39-40—You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you possess eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Luke 9.51-55—As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?” But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

2 Timothy 3.16—All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.

John 5.36—I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to finish—the very works that I am doing—testify that the Father has sent me.

1 Corinthians 13.8-10—Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”— John 14.9

*All texts quoted from the TNIV or NRSV unless otherwise noted.

to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”

Patriarchy

Luke 10.39-40—She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, “Lord, don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!”

Violence

Exodus 23.27-30— I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run. I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way. But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land.

Law (Eye for an Eye)

Galatians 3.28—There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

Hebrews 1.1-3—In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways [polymeros and polytropos, parts and forms], but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son . . . The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation [charakter] of his being.

John 1.17-18—The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

Matthew 5.38-42—You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

Matthew 5.43-48—You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.

Deuteronomy 23.15—If a slave has taken refuge with you, do not hand them over to their master.

1 Corinthians 11.6—For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head. A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. (contrast Genesis 1.27)

Ephesians 6.5—Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

Luke 9:29-35—As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus . . . As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what he was saying.) . . . A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.”

John 13.34—I give you a new commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

