

THE DANGERS OF THE BIBLE

Understanding Concession, Accommodation, & the Ideal

“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

Biblical Examples:
Genesis 19.24
2 Kings 1.10

Accommodation vs Ideal

Polygamy
Slavery
Nationalism
King
Violence

Romans 6.14—For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

John 5.39,40—You study the Scriptures, because you think that in them you will find eternal life. And these very Scriptures speak about me! Yet you are not willing to come to me in order 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. Then he and his disciples went to another village.

2 Timothy 3.16—All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.

Matthew 23.23 (NRSV)—Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint, dill, and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith . . .

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.

Hebrews 1.1-3—In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways [polytropos - multiple personalities], 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 of his being.

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 when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

John 1.17,18—For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Law Vs. Grace

Matthew 5.17—Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”— John 10.10

*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

***Matthew 5.21,22**—You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not murder’; and ‘whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment.

Matthew 5.27-28—You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

***Deuteronomy 19.21**—Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Leviticus 19.18—You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Psa. 31:6—I hate those who regard vain idols, But I trust in the LORD.

Psa. 119:113— I hate those who are double-minded, But I love Your law.

Psa. 139:21—Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You?

Psa. 139:22—I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies.

Eccl. 3:8—A time to love and a time to hate; A time for war and a time for peace

***1 Timothy 2.12**—I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet.

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

Exodus 23:29,30—I will not drive them out before you in a single year, that the land may not become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. I will drive them out before you little by little, until you become fruitful and take possession of the land.

Matthew 5.20—For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven

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.

2 Corinthians 5.14,15—For Christ’s love compels us . . .

Law Vs. Truth

Galatians 3.19—Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made.

1 Timothy 1:8-9—But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person.

Galatians 4:1-5—Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elementary things of the world [stoicheion - the basic principles which underlie the nature of something, basic principles or elementary concepts, Louw & Nida Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament] But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law . . .

1 Corinthians 6:12—All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

Luke 9:29-35—And while He was praying, the appearance of His face became different, and His clothing became white and gleaming. And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, . . . a cloud formed and began to overshadow them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. Then a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “ This is My Son, My Chosen One; listen to Him!”