

04 - God behaving Badly – Is God violent or peaceful?

“Is God violent or peaceful?”

Is the bible child friendly?

... how inappropriate the bible was for kids because it “glorified violence” and especially the “violence of God”.

... the book of Judges

... R or X rating

1) Revenge of the OBE

2 Kings 2:13-25

“Would you worship a god who kills children just for calling a man bald”.

Elisha is clearly now YHWH’s spokesmen to the nations.

... a gang of youth and young adults who are aggressive towards Elisha

... to insult a person’s name is deeply offensive.

... it does not say any of the young men are killed.

I bet you that they never forgot their encounter with the prophet of YHWH.

2) The mass slaughter of the Assyrians

2 Kings 19:35, an angel of YHWH went through the Assyrian camp and put to death 185 000 Assyrian soldiers.

Does this massive slaughter prove God loves his violence?

... Sennacherib was the aggressive party

... threatened God’s people

... Sennacherib openly bragged that he was more powerful than YHWH

“Shut up like a bird in a cage” (show picture)

3) The common use of the death sentence.

... a very different time period and a very different culture.

... serious deterrents must be in place

... ways of protecting victims and the vulnerable from those who have harmed them.

Leviticus 24:19-20, “Anyone who injures their neighbour is to be injured in the same manner: 20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. The one who has inflicted the injury must suffer

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the same injury. 21 Whoever kills an animal must make restitution, but whoever kills a human being is to be put to death. 22 You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the Lord your God.”

Peacemaking

1) Should we kill them?

2 Kings 6:8-23

... peaceful solution God gave his people stopped the cycle of violence

2) Plenty of examples of peace seeking.

Proverbs 25:21, 1 Samuel 24:3-7, 1 Samuel 25, Jonah 3, Jeremiah 29:7, Isaiah 2:4

3) Jesus – peace bringer or sword wielder?

Mat 5:44 - “love you enemies and pray for those who persecute you”.

Mat 10:34, “I did not come to bring peace but the sword”.

Question – Are we peace makers?

- **Do we seek revenge or peace?**
- **Do we love, feed and pray for our enemies?**
- **Do we building bridges or putting up fences with those who could be seen as your enemies?**
- **Are we people who are seen to be reconciling people to each other and to God?**