THE SKEPTIC ARENA.COM

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Did God Order the Killing of Babies?

by Dave Miller, Ph.D.

*Skeptics and atheists have been critical of the Bible’s portrayal of God ordering the death of entire populations—including women and children.*

Dave, don't mind those silly Atheists. Ordering the death of entire populations, including women and children, isn't necessarily a bad thing ... as I'm sure you're going to explain to us.

*For example, God instructed Saul through the prophet Samuel to “go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey” (1 Samuel 15:3-4).*

Dave, how did the donkeys manage to piss God off so bad? Did one of them defecate too close to a church?

*Other examples include the period of the Israelite conquest of Canaan in which God instructed the people to exterminate the Canaanite populations that occupied Palestine at the time.*

See Dave, there's the problem: if they had done the job right the first time, Israel wouldn't be in the same position they are now, having to do it all over again.

*However, if one cares to examine the circumstances and assess the rationale,*

Dave, those were the weasel words I *knew* were coming. Hey, maybe I've got some potential as a prophet?

But seriously Dave, let's face it - there are no circumstances, nor any rationale, that can justify mass murder.

None.

The fact that you are willing to try, is the proof of what religion can do to the brain. And you are the proof that even a PHD is no guarantee of protection against this virulent mental virus.

*the Bible consistently exonerates itself*

Dave, if you had earned a JD instead of a PHD, you might have learned that the Bible cannot exonerate itself - it can only be exonerated by corroborating evidence from other sources.

*by offering legitimate clarification and explanation to satisfy the honest searcher of truth.*

Dave, what is illegitimate clarification?

As for "honest searcher of truth," this essay will provide the proof that you are anything but.

Christian Apologetics exists for one purpose and one purpose only: to provide Ghost Worshipers with responses that they can throw back at scientists and nonbelievers, in the hope of retaining as much of the flock as possible. There isn't a single paragraph apologists write, that isn't dripping with dishonesty; this essay being a prime example.

*The Hebrew term herem found, for instance, in Joshua 6:17, refers to the total dedication or giving over of the enemy to God as a sacrifice involving the extermination of the populace.*

Dave, and that is a good thing ... how?

I thought you Ghost Worshipers were big on forgiveness? What happened to that God? Did He take a bathroom break?

*It is alleged that the God of the Bible is as barbaric and cruel as any of the pagan gods. But this assessment is simply not true.*

Dave, you are not going to believe this but I agree with you!

Yes, you read that right, we agree. There is no pagan god from any literature on Earth who comes anywhere near the level of cruelty and evil ... as the God you worship.

*If the critic would take the time to study the Bible and make an honest evaluation of the principles of God’s justice, wrath, and love, he would see the perfect and harmonious interplay between them.*

Dave, why did you leave out hate? Or was that included in "wrath?"

*God’s vengeance is not like the impulsive, irrational, emotional outbursts of pagan deities or human beings.*

Dave, good point. God's vengeance is more like the premeditated kind; which must be true since you Ghost Worshipers claim that your God knows the future.

*He is infinite in all His attributes and thus perfect in justice, love, and anger.*

Dave, describe "perfect in anger."

*Just as God’s ultimate and final condemnation of sinners to eternal punishment will be just and appropriate,*

Dave, the fact that you believe it is appropriate for people who choose the wrong invisible ghost to be eternally tortured, is more evidence of just how amazingly sick "you people" really are.

*so the temporal judgment of wicked people in the Old Testament was ethical and fair.*

So Dave, how were the murdered fetuses wicked? Did they masturbate in the womb?

Dave, if you were confined in a tiny, cramped, soggy place for 9 months with nothing to do but watch your feet grow, I imagine you would buff the hell out of that little pecker yourself.

*We human beings do not have an accurate handle on the gravity of sin and the deplorable nature of evil and wickedness.*

Dave, if that's true, then how can we be eternally tortured for making mistakes?

Oh, that's right ... ignorance is no excuse. I almost forgot.

*Human sentimentality is hardly a qualified measuring stick for divine truth and spiritual reality.*

Dave, "spiritual reality?"

You should look up the word "oxymoron." You just gave a beautiful example.

*How incredibly ironic that the atheist, the agnostic, the skeptic, and the liberal all attempt to stand in judgment upon the ethical behavior of God when, if one embraces their position, there is no such thing as an absolute, objective, authoritative standard by which to pronounce anything right or wrong.*

Dave, one does not need an absolute, objective, authoritative standard to know that butchering pregnant women is wrong.

The fact that you do is disturbing; especially when that absolute, objective, authoritative standard ... tells you it's okay.

*As the French existentialist philosopher, Sartre, admitted: “Everything is indeed permitted if God does not exist.... Nor...are we provided with any values or commands that could legitimize our behavior” (1961, p. 485).*

Dave, Sartre was way off the mark on that one. We have no evidence for the existence of any of Earth's thousands of gods, and yet thousands of things are not permitted. We call those things ... laws.

Seriously Dave, a JD would have been far more useful to you than a PHD ... as this essay is proving.

*The atheist and agnostic have absolutely no platform on which to stand to make moral or ethical distinctions—except as the result of purely personal taste.*

Dave, and yet they have. Civilizations have written laws, rules, ordinances, and constitutions throughout history, and most were written without regard to your imaginary friend.

And Dave, based on the laws in your book (which allow slavery, genocide, and murder of pregnant women), I would say our laws are a whole lot better (understatement of the century).

*The mere fact that they concede the existence of objective evil is an unwitting concession there is a God Who has established an absolute framework of moral judgments.*

Dave, you tried to connect two separate ideas ... and failed. Belief in objective evil (such as murder) does not require belief in invisible ghosts.

*The facts of the matter are*

Dave, finally. Here's where the magic show really begins. Set rationalizers to stun.

*that the Canaanites, whom God’s people were to destroy, were destroyed for their wickedness (Deuteronomy 9:4; 18:9-12; Leviticus 18:24-25,27-28).*

But Dave, according to scripture their donkeys were evil too ... and their fetuses.

*Canaanite culture and religion in the second millennium B.C. were polluted, corrupt, and perverted.*

Dave, I recognize this defense. It's called "blame the victim."

*No doubt the people were physically diseased from their illicit behavior.*

Dave, "no doubt?" Isn't that called an assertion?

*There simply was no viable solution to their condition except destruction.*

Dave, you seem to be forgetting that your God is claimed to be all-powerful. Therefore He cannot be limited to one viable solution. He can choose any solution He wants. But instead of forgiveness or education, He chose massacre.

*Their moral depravity was “full” (Genesis 15:16).*

Well Dave, let's not forget who made them that way. Let's also not forget who knew exactly how they would turn out.

*They had slumped to such an immoral, depraved state, with no hope of recovery, that their existence on this Earth had to be terminated*

Dave, why do you keep ignoring the fetuses? Remember them?

They are supposed to be the subject of this essay, yet you are trying to distract everyone by talking about everything ... except them. Tell us why they had to be murdered?

*just like in Noah’s day when God waited while Noah preached for years, but was unable to turn the world’s population from its wickedness (Genesis 6:3,5-7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 3:5-9).*

Dave, it sounds like your God isn't all that good at what He does, huh?

He keeps building little people who all turn against Him. Then He loses his temper and kills everyone. And in both cases, your invisible ghost is so mad, He also kills all the innocent animals.

Dude, that is one seriously sick psychopath ... whom you worship.

*Including the children in the destruction of such populations actually spared them from a worse condition—that of being reared to be as wicked as their parents and thus face eternal punishment.*

Dave, so those little suckers got out of going to Hell?

That doesn't seem fair. Just out of curiosity Dave, you wouldn't happen to have the verses handy that back up that claim, would you? You know, proving that the children were spared from Hell?

*All persons who die in childhood, according to the Bible, are ushered to Paradise and will ultimately reside in Heaven.*

Dave, verses please.

*Children who have parents who are evil must naturally suffer innocently while on Earth (e.g., Numbers 14:33).*

Dave, what do you mean "naturally?" No country on Earth is barbaric enough to punish children for the crimes of their parents. That vile mentality is found only in the Bible.

*Those who disagree with God’s annihilation of the wicked in the Old Testament have the same liberal attitude that has come to prevail in America just in the last half century.*

Dave, you couldn't have done a better job of identifying evil in modern day America. Conservatives actually agree with genocide as long as they can rationalize it, which, as this essay proves, they can do with ease. Liberals cannot, and do not try, to rationalize genocide, but instead, fight to stop it.

Thanks Dave, for showing everyone the difference between rational Americans and Conservatives.

*That attitude has typically opposed capital punishment,*

Dave, you mean like in the 10 Commandments?

It seems your God was a liberal.

(I know that one's gonna leave a mark)

*as well as the corporal punishment of children.*

Dave, that's the direction most advanced nations are heading. Perhaps you would be much happier in a nice Christian country ... like Uganda?

*Such people simply cannot see the rightness of evildoers being punished by execution or physical pain.*

Dave, that was so, so ... Jesus of you. Why do you even bother to call yourself a Christian?

You Conservative assholes represent everything Jesus stood against.

*Nevertheless, their view is skewed—and the rest of us are being forced to live with the results of their warped thinking:*

Well Dave, we were forced to live with the results of fundamentalist Christian thinking for 2,000 years before civilization finally found the courage to start fighting back. Progress has been agonizingly slow but we can just barely make out the light at the end of the tunnel as violent Ghost Worshipers, like you, are finally being brought under control.

*undisciplined, out-of-control children are wreaking havoc on our society by perpetrating crime to historically, all-time high levels.*

Dave, you just blew your own head off. Nice job.

Anyone can google the crime rate and discover that you just trapped yourself in a major lie. Crime is at historically low levels that haven't been seen in decades.

After that screwup Dave, about the only thing left to figure out ... is where to bury you.

*Those who reject the ethics of God’s destructive activity in the Old Testament, to be consistent, must reject Jesus and the New Testament.*

Dave, why?

Tens of millions of Christians do exactly that. They follow the teachings of Jesus and ignore the vicious brutality of that monster that you are so infatuated with. Maybe they can show you how to keep your faith, and simultaneously, how to ignore the inhuman monster in the Old Testament, as they do.

*Over and over again, Jesus and the New Testament writers endorsed and defended such activity (e.g., Luke 13:1-9; 12:5; 17:29-32; 10:12; Hebrews 10:26-31).*

Thanks Dave. I tried to give you an out: a way to keep your faith while not looking like a violent psychopath. But if you are correct, then there is no compromise. No hope.

Dave, question: has your application to Westboro Baptist been approved yet?

*The Bible provides the only logical, sensible, meaningful, consistent explanation regarding the principles of retribution, punishment, and the conditions under which physical life may be extinguished.*

Dave, I noticed you buried us under a lot of verses, but meticulously avoided mentioning Hosea 13:16. Allow me to quote the verse you don't want your audience to know about:

"Samaria shall become desolate; for she hath rebelled against her God: they shall fall by the sword: their infants shall be dashed in pieces, and their women with child shall be ripped up."

That is the verse pro-lifers always forget to mention too.

I wonder why?

Dave, you must think your audience is incredibly stupid; and they are if they didn't notice that through your entire magic show, you never addressed the topic of this essay - the justification for God's baby-killing.

Dave, you had all the time you needed. If you could have defended God's murders - you would have.

Therefore, the only reason you didn't ... is because you couldn't.

<http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=13&article=2810>

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

Antibacterial gel kills hospital superbugs

Scientists have made a breakthrough in the fight against the most resistant hospital superbugs. Using natural proteins they have developed the first innovative antibacterial gel that acts to kill Pseudomonas aeruginosa, staphylococci, and E.coli.

The gels have the ability to break down the thick jelly-like coating which cover bacteria while leaving healthy cells unaffected.

When bacteria attach to surfaces, including medical implants such as hip replacements and catheters, they produce a jelly-like substance called the biofilm. This protective layer is almost impossible for current antibiotics to penetrate through. Therefore bacteria deep within this protective layer are resistant as they remain unexposed to the therapy. They grow and thrive on surfaces to cause infections that are very difficult to treat. The only option is often to remove the medical implant leading to further pain and discomfort for the patient.

The gels are unique in that they target and kill the most resistant forms of hospital superbugs. It involves the use of gels composed of the building blocks of natural proteins, called peptides: the same ingredients that form human tissue. These molecules are modified slightly in the laboratory to allow them to form gels that will rapidly kill bacteria.

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FAMOUS QUOTES

Anonymous

"Pray to God - fine;

but keep rowing to shore."

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\*Play podcast to hear caller "Lonewolf Pittsburgh"