

## *The Dark Bible*

### *Morality And Paradoxes*

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#### *Be Wise As Serpents*

*"Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10:16)*

#### *Comment*

*This verse instructs the apostles to act "wise as serpents." Since Christians hold that the serpent in the Bible represents Satan, one might wonder about this. Note also that some Bibles use the term "subtle" in place of "wise" which alludes to the serpent in Genesis 3:1, "the serpent was more subtil than any beast..." Early Gnostic heretics believed that Jesus "was" Satan and they used Biblical verses such as this to support their belief.*

*It seems odd that Jesus would resort to the metaphorical "sheep" instead of pet dogs or some other loyal animal. The awkward fact remains that men raise sheep for two reasons: to rob them of their coats and to kill and eat*

*them.*

*Note also that doves actually act just the opposite of "harmless." Doves act viciously against other birds.*

*Burn Them!*

*"Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings." (Psalm 140:4)*

*"Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again." (Psalm 140:10)*

*Comment*

*Such wicked words can justify to the religious person any atrocity including holocausts. Ironically in verse 4, the words "Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked" calls in verse 10 for horrible acts against their enemies; hardly a message of love of thine enemies.*

*Creation Paradox, 1*

*"And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (Genesis 1:25-26)*

*"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air..." (Genesis 2:18-19)*

*Comment*

*Man was made before the beasts and after the beasts.*

*Only a person who exercised warped logic or blind faith could justify this outright contradiction. Yet to the fundamentalist reader, the many hundreds of contradictions and discrepancies in the Bible go by unseen, regardless of how many honest scholars and theologians have discovered otherwise.*

*Even the belief among non-fundamentalists, that the Bible has kept its original form despite minor changes, has led many theologians to think otherwise. One of the most highly respected theologians, Bruce Metzger, has written extensively on the errors in the Bible. For example, in his book "The text of the New Testament- Its Transmission, Corruption, and Restoration," Metzger asserts errors due to:*

*Errors arising from faulty eyesight*

*Errors arising from faulty hearing*  
*Errors of the mind*  
*Errors of judgment*  
*Difficulties historical and geographical*  
*Alterations from doctrinal considerations*  
*Addition of miscellaneous details.*

*Many times whole belief systems and vast changes to a society can change from a simple mistranslation of a single word. (See "virgin" in Isaiah 7:14)*

### *Creation Paradox, 2*

*"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." (Genesis 1:27)*

*"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man." (Genesis 2:21-22)*

### *Comment*

*In the first account, God created a man and female, simultaneously. In the second account Adam got created from out of the dust, and then later, a woman came from one of his ribs.*

*There occur many other contradictions in the Bible that would require an extensive amount of disk space to record and explain. For those who feel impressed by the number of instances, and for further edification, consult "The Bible Handbook for Free-Thinkers and Inquiring Christians," edited by G. W. Foote and W. P. Ball (Pioneer Press, London)*

### *Curse The Children*

*"And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise." (Numbers 14:33-34)*

### *Comment*

*This cruel curse on children attributed to God, for the sins of their parents, bears the typical harsh vengeful evil spirit that permeates the Old Testament.*

*How can one not conclude that these verses give the greatest insult to a loving God?*

### *Eat Your Children*

*"And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straightness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:" (Deuteronomy 28:53)*

*"And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates." (Deuteronomy 28:57)*

### *Comment*

*Here we have the horrific calling for cannibalism. It comes even more barbaric considering it calls for the devouring of their own sons and daughters.*

*Hardly anyone today accepts cannibalism, yet many fundamentalist Christians would have us believe that cannibalism will result if we choose not to believe in God or to choose another god.*

*(See also II Kings 6:28-29)*

### *God Accepts Slavery*

*"And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever." (Exodus 21:5-6)*

### *Comment*

*The Bible bears witness to the fact that God accepts not only slavery but violence against such slaves (in this case a awl driven through the ear) for the innocent statement of love for their master, wife and children.*

*It came from precisely these verses that justified, in many peoples minds, the tortures inflicted on African slaves when they tried to leave their cruel masters in the American colonies. "Good" Christians of the day would drive nails and spikes through the ears of defenseless slaves whose only offense came from the will to no longer serve as slaves.*

*Not until after the Civil War did federal laws become enacted to protect African Americans from gross physical abuse. Even today, the KKK and "the Aryan Race" use the Bible as justification for their attacks against "Negroes."*

### *God Orders Adultery*

*"This said the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun." (II Samuel 12:11)*

#### *Comment*

*Here describes God, not only condoning adultery, but literally causes it to happen!*

*Note also, the strange assertion that God raises up evil, supposedly an act reserved for Satan.*

### *God's OK On Abortion*

*"And when he hath made her drink the water, then it shall come to pass, that, if she be defiled, and have done trespass against her husband, that the water that causeth the curse shall enter into her, and become bitter, and her belly shall swell, and her thigh shall rot: and the woman shall be a curse among her people. And if the woman be not defiled, but be clean; then she shall be free, and shall conceive seed." (Numbers 5:27-28)*

#### *Comment*

*This nonsensical ritual, prescribed by God, to a woman suspected of infidelity, must undergo the drinking of a vile concoction made of bitter water and dust from the floor of a tabernacle. A priest calls a curse upon the woman's head to insure that if she has acted in adultery the drinking of the liquid will cause her to have a miscarriage. If she comes out clean, then she shall conceive.*

*Regardless of how ridiculous this procedure appears, any person who believes every word of the Bible must come to terms with the realization that the quoted God here sometimes authorizes abortion.*

*(also read Num. 5:1-25)*

### *God's creation*

*"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)*

*"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (Genesis 1:26)*

### *Comment*

*The Bible has a problem from the very beginning in that the English term 'God' came from the Hebrew term 'Elohim.' The problem, here, lies in the fact that Elohim represents the plural form of 'El.' And since 'El' means 'god,' then Elohim should mean 'gods.' (More accurately, "goddesses.")*

*The idea of Genesis and the Creation did not come originally from the Hebrews, but rather from various cultures in the area. For example, excavations in Mesopotamia uncovered small cylinder seals depicting the creation stories. Of course these early people believed in many gods and goddesses, just as the first Hebrew people did.*

*Although as the Hebrew belief system grew, and the word Elohim came to mean the singular God, the fact still remains: The original meaning meant the plural form. Any honest translation of Elohim, therefore should reflect this plurality. In the name of honesty, we should ask why our Church fathers would allow the dishonest singular forms of the word God in the Bible.*

*Note, when anyone questioned this plurality, Christian priests tried to resolve this sticky problem by using the concept of the Trinity (Father, Son and the Holy Ghost) to explain the plurality. The problem here comes that if they truly believed this, then why not use the proper plural translation in the first place?*

### *Happy To Kill Children*

*"Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones." (Psalm 137:9, KJV) "Happy the man who shall seize and smash your little ones against the rock!" (Psalm 137:9, New American Bible) "a blessing on anyone who seizes your babies and shatters them against a rock!" (Psalm 137:9, Jerusalem Bible)*

### *Comment*

*Ask a Christian friend whether he or she should feel happy to dash a child against the rocks. Your friend will most likely stare at you in horror, much less believe this idea exists in their sacred Bible.*

*Many Churches have found this verse as quite embarrassing. It gives no wonder then why priests, Jews, and Christians alike, have quoted from Psalm 137, but always leaving out this last verse.*

*(See also Isaiah 13:16)*

### *Hate Them!*

*"Surely thou will slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy*

*name in vain. Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies." (Psalm 139:19-22)*

*Comment*

*A message of hate from the, supposed, inspired words of God against anyone who takes God's name in vain or who goes against God.*

*Faith in one's belief produces a barrier to further investigation. As such, societies that differ in beliefs from other societies cannot see past their own barriers. When hate enters into the prison of their beliefs, the seeds for violence to act out against other societies come to full bloom.*

*Hate Your Family!*

*"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:26)*

*Comment*

*This remarkable statement of hate by Jesus directly contradicts the idea of a loving Christ. If one must hate their father, mother, wife, children, brethren and sisters and even themselves, in order to become a disciple of Jesus, one must question Christ's idea of the family.*

*(See also Luke 12:51-53, Matthew 11:34-37.)*

*Human Sacrifice*

*"Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me." (Exodus 22:29)*

*Comment*

*This verse refers to human sacrifice which many primitive cultures practiced.*

*In the Canaanite world the Molech cult practiced human sacrifice and many scholars equate Yahweh with the Molech god. Explicit references to Molech appear in Lev. 18:21, 20:2-5; Jer. 32:35 and II Kings 23:10. Fortunately, few people believe in sacrificing humans to gods these days.*

*(See also Gen. 22:1-19 for Abraham's will to sacrifice his son Isaac, and Judges 11)*

### *Make Weapons*

*"Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong."  
(Joel 3:9-10)*

#### *Comment*

*Peace loving Jews and Christians love to quote the biblical passage about beating swords into ploughshares and spears into pruninghooks, (Micah 4:3) but here we have just the opposite.*

### *More Than One God*

*"Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods: for in the thing wherein they dealt proudly he was above them." (Exodus 18:11)*

#### *Comment*

*Here we have the Bible alluding to the existence of more than one god.*

*Note that it does not say "the Lord is the only god" but rather that he "is greater than all gods."*

*History records that the ancient people in the area of the Middle East, including the Hebrews, believed in many goddesses and gods. Yahweh served only as their god, a god among many others.*

*"It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are 20 gods, or no God. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg." (Thomas Jefferson)*

### *Serpent Jews*

*"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matthew 23:33)*

#### *Comment*

*Chapter 23 describes the famous diatribe of Jesus against the Jewish leaders. Such biblical words has, for centuries, given believers justification for Jewish hatred. This verse, spoken by Jesus himself, compares the unbelieving Jews with the serpent devil.*

### *Synagogues Of Satan*



*"But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which I also hate." (Revelation 2:6)*

*"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan." (Revelation 2:9)*

*"So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which the thing I hate." (Revelation 2:15)*

*"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee." (Revelation 3:9)*

#### *Comment*

*These verses by Jesus has fueled the engine of anti-Semitism throughout Europe and the rest of the world for centuries. Unfortunately many believers today still justify their hatred of Jews based on Scripture.*

*Note that we have here in Rev 2:6 the words of Jesus admitting to hate, contrary to the belief by many Christians that Jesus holds only to the principle of love.*

#### *The Talking Donkey*

*"And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, 'What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?' And Balaam said unto the ass, 'Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.' And the ass said unto Balaam, 'Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee?' And he said, 'Nay.'" (Numbers 22:27-30)*

#### *Comment*

*Here we have, as absurd as it may seem, a talking donkey. If we came across a talking animal, would we not feel amazed? Yet, oddly, Balaam here seems not the least bit concerned and converses with the ass as if nothing unusual had happened!*

*Given that millions of fundamentalists believe every word in the Bible, they would have us also believe that the Bible has its own version of Mr. Ed.*

*Notice that Balaam's cruel behavior to the donkey seems to have mimicked God's jealous behavior towards His people. Yet God responds to Balaam: "thy way is perverse before me." (Num. 22:32)*

*"If the bible had said that Jonah swallowed the whale, I would believe it."  
(William Jennings Bryan)*

### *The "Gods"*

*"Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3)*

*"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;" (Exodus 20:5)*

### *Comment*

*Note this does not mean "I am the only god," but rather, that one shall not believe in other gods above the God of the Chosen People.*

*Scholars and archeologists know that the early Hebrews practiced polytheism.*

*Not only does the Bible describe the polytheism of the Hebrews but digs from archeological sites give evidence that these early people believed in many gods, or more accurately, goddesses. They have found many statuette goddesses among their living dwellings.*

*Monotheism appears later in the Bible. Historically, monotheism got taught by many Greek philosophers. Judaism later separated itself from the Hellenistic world with its belief in only one supreme deity.*

*In Exodus 20:5 we have a god so jealous that he holds a grudge against the children of the fathers who hated him. Hardly a concept of a forgiving and loving God.*

### *The Sun Stands Still*

*"Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.*

*And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day." (Joshua 10:12-13)*

### *Comment*

*These verses imply that the sun moves around the earth. If the Bible actually represents the words or inspired words of God, then why didn't the Great Creator inspire them to tell the truth about the universe and our solar system?*

*Also, the Bible asks us to believe that a supposedly loving God made the sun stand still for the sole purpose of helping the Israelites slaughter the Amorites. How can one not see that these verses would insult the intelligence of any person who believes God possess wisdom, knowledge and love?*

### *Turn Thy Cheek*

*"But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." (Matthew 5:39)*

### *Comment*

*This nonviolent principle does not originate with Jesus. Lao-tse and the Buddha taught this five or six hundred years before Jesus.*

*Ironically, few Christians hold to this principle. In fact, the Religious Right preach just the opposite as Christians throughout the centuries have violently attacked anyone who dared threaten them.*