

**THE GOD OF PEACE
OR WAR?**

**“Now may the God of peace be with
you all. Amen.”**

ROMANS 15:33

SO WHICH ONE IS TRUE?

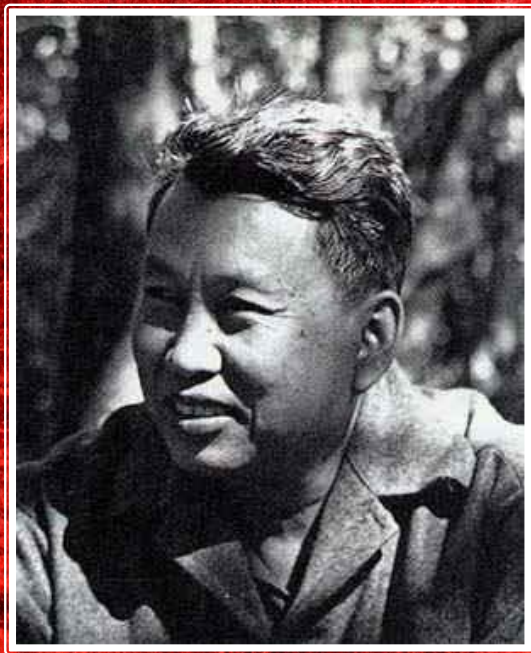
**“The Lord is a man of war.
The Lord is his name.”**

EXODUS 15:3

“As always, New Atheists take any statistics that show the underbelly of religion and then push these numbers to the extremes. The role of religion in inciting global violence remains their numero uno reason why religion must be abolished. In their minds, should religion be allowed to continue, civilization as we know it will cease to exist” (*The New Atheist Crusaders*, Garrison, p. 66).

A “HUMAN” THING, NOT A “RELIGION” THING

- Religion does not make people violent or bigoted, but is an excuse by those who are already so.
- The Bible has many examples of violence that were predicated on non-religious motives (lust, greed, etc.).
- History is not kind to cultural movements based on atheism or humanism...

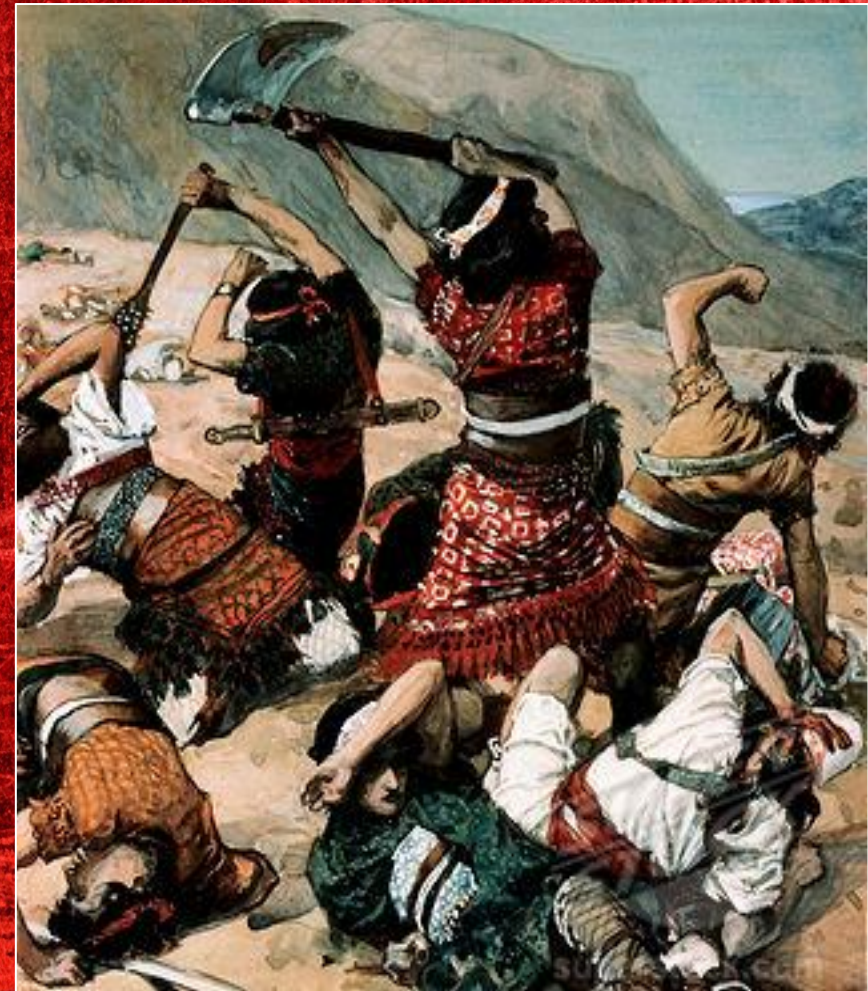


LET'S ADMIT SOMETHING...

- **Atheists do not accept the Stalin/Mao/Pol Pot argument as valid, and for good reason. It is widely ridiculed in atheist circles.**
- **Any dogma or belief system can be abused. Assuming something about an entire class of people based on isolated examples is not philosophically acceptable.**
- ***So will the atheist accept this and be consistent?***

GOD-SANCTIONED WARFARE IN THE BIBLE

- Most Bible warfare is in short spurts in order to deal with specific problems.
- We also need to be careful with our sympathies and see people for what they were.



“But you shall utterly destroy them... as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things which they have done for their gods, so that you would sin against the Lord your God.”

DEUTERONOMY 20:17-18

IS CHRISTIANITY A RELIGION OF PEACE?

- Do the excesses of fringe groups and corrupt pseudo-churches really represent the whole?
- Matthew 5:38ff
- Even when war is prescribed in the NT, it is used allegorically:
 - John 18:36
 - 2 Corinthians 10:3ff
 - Ephesians 6:10-17
 - Colossians 3:5-11