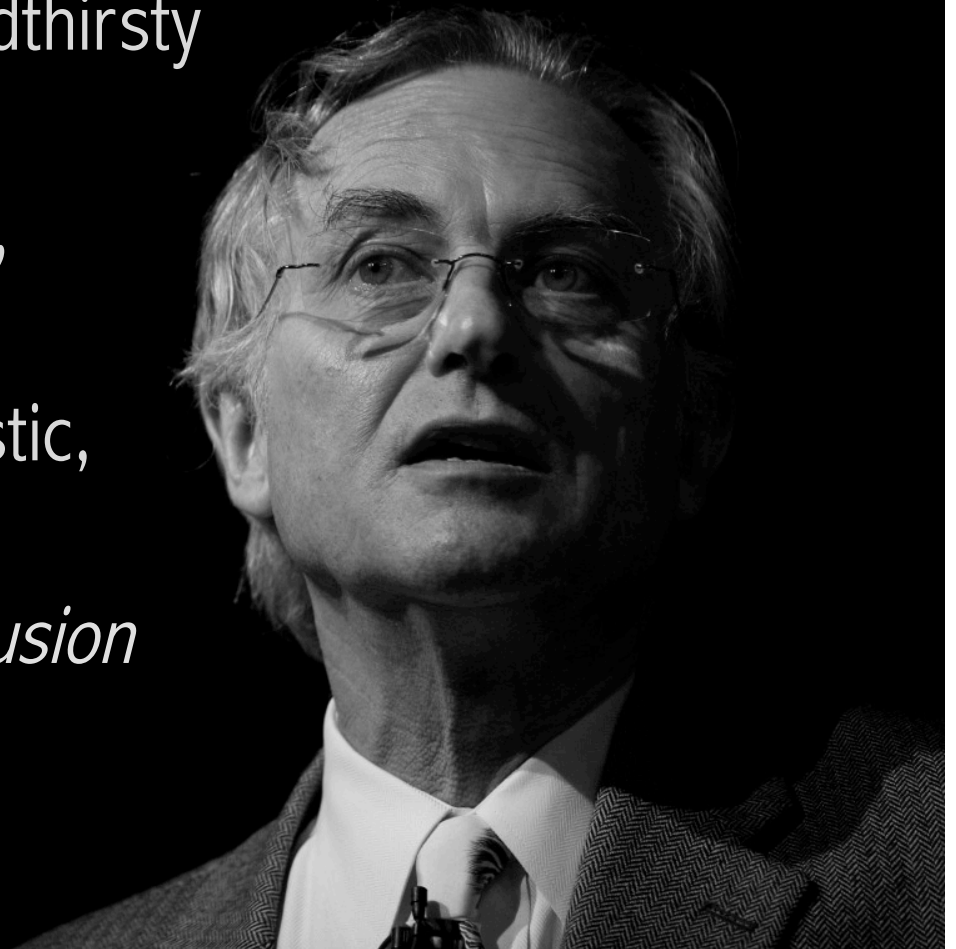


THAT MEAN OLD

GOD

“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, *The God Delusion*



GOD'S ATROCITIES

- Is God really presented in such a light in the Old Testament? It's incredibly easy (and a bit lazy) to rip specific examples from their context and build a case to prove such a notion.
- What is at stake? If it can be proved that there is some kind of disconnect between the "Gods" of the Old and New Testaments, then it illustrates exactly what skeptics have been saying for years — that the Bible is a hastily cobbled-together collection of unrelated documents that do not reflect the truth about the universe or its origins.

SOME “FAVORITES”

- The Amalekites (1 Samuel 15) – Deuteronomy 25:17ff
- Individuals who got a “bad break” – Achan (Joshua 7), Korah (Numbers 16), Uzzah (2 Sam. 6).
- Stoning “disobedient children” (Deuteronomy 21:18-21) – Not exactly what Bible critics assume. The “son” must be old enough to be a menace to society.
- The Israelites conquering Canaan – “Those poor people from Canaan were viciously displaced or slaughtered at God’s command.”

DIFFERENT STARTING POINTS

**The Canaanites
Are Innocent**
(Not supported by the Bible)



**God Had Them
Killed**
(Joshua 11:16-20)

God Is Unjust
(Contradictory to the Bible)



DIFFERENT STARTING POINTS

**God Is Just And
Merciful**

**(Psalm 145:8-9, 17-20, Isaiah
30:18, Isaiah 61:8)**



**God Had Them
Killed**

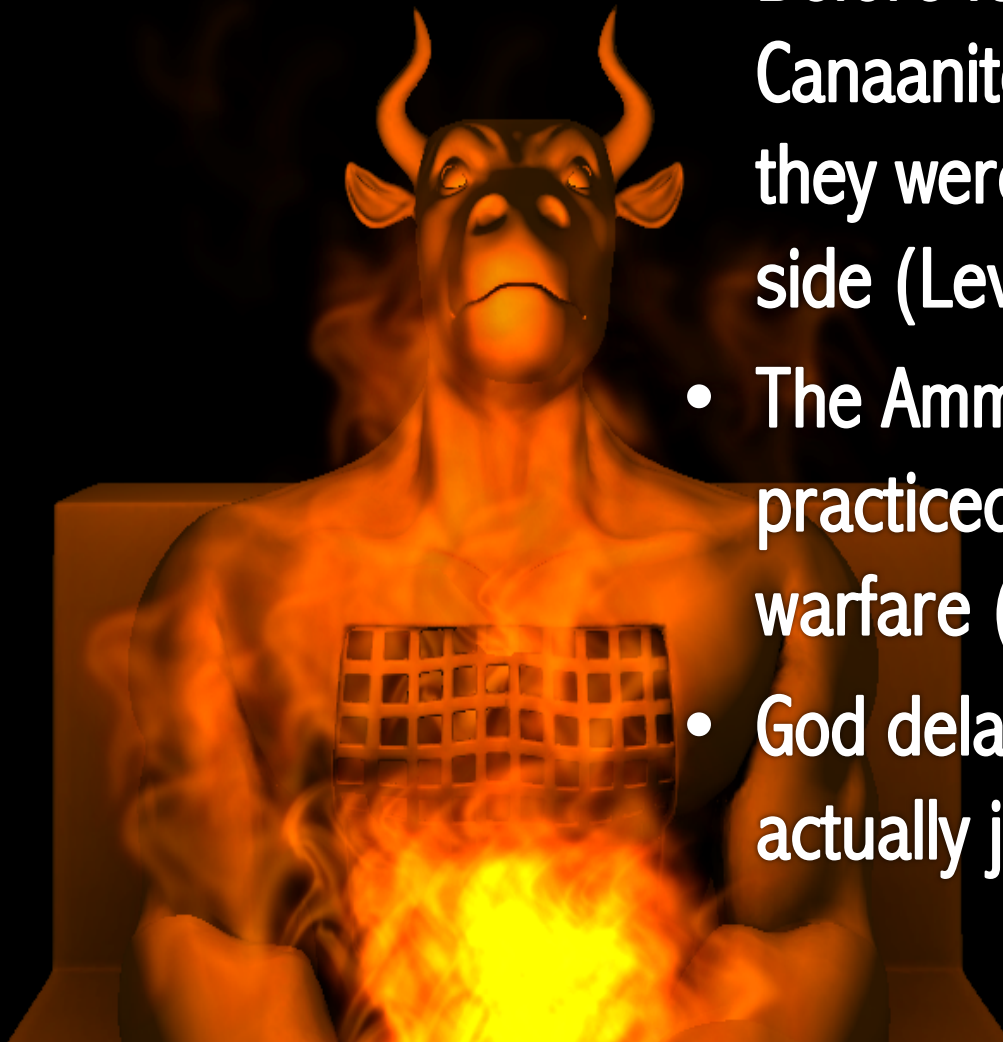
**Canaanites Received
A Just Punishment**

**(Deuteronomy 9:4-5, Genesis 15:16,
Joshua 24:8)**



SYMPATHY FOR CANAANITES?

- Before feeling too sorry for the poor Canaanites, try to remember that they were a people with a very dark side (Lev. 20:3-5).
- The Ammonites and Aramites practiced unimaginable brutality in warfare (Amos 1:13, 2 Kings 8:12).
- God delayed judgment until their evil actually justified it (Genesis 15:16).



HUMAN BEHAVIOR

- Ezekiel 14:12-23 — Even the “best” people cannot change a population if it is unwilling to listen. God will judge in righteousness as a response to human sin. Like Ezekiel, we should bear human behavior in mind when considering God’s judgment.
- Isaiah 59 — Sin testifies against its practitioners. How can anybody complain to God in light of this witness? If an entire population has fallen into moral chaos, what do you expect God to do? Ignore it?

A dramatic sky with a cross silhouette. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds against a deep blue background. Sunlight is breaking through the clouds, creating a bright, golden glow. In the foreground, a dark silhouette of a cross stands on a hill. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

**IS THE GOD OF THE NEW
TESTAMENT REALLY
DIFFERENT?**

Isaiah 59:20-21, Jeremiah 31:31-34

THE “NT GOD”

- He still judges (Matthew 23-24, Romans 13:1-5, 1 Thess. 5:1-4, 2 Peter 3:8-13, Revelation 20:11-15).
- Perhaps he *seems* so much harsher in the OT because that is what was needed at the time. It's easy for us in a peaceful, just society to sit in judgment of God's treatment of others, when a little perspective changes everything.
- Perspective — God deals with man as he is able to accept it, like a father deals with his children in different stages of life (Heb. 12:7ff, Gal. 4:1ff, Rom. 5:6). Does your own father seem completely different to you now?