



The Bible is Full of Violence

2 Timothy 2:15(NKJV) "...rightly dividing the word of truth."

John 11:32-35: "When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?' he asked. 'Come and see, Lord,' they replied. 35 Jesus wept."

We Would _____ Want a _____ Violent God

"I used to think that wrath was unworthy of God. Isn't God love? Shouldn't divine love be beyond wrath? God is love, and God loves every person and every creature. That's exactly why God is wrathful against some of them. My last resistance to the idea of God's wrath was a casualty of war in the former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. According to some estimates, 200,000 people were killed and over 3,000,000 were displaced. My villages and cities were destroyed, my people shelled day in and day out, some of them brutalized beyond imagination, and I could not imagine God not being angry. Or think of Rwanda in the last decade of the past century, where 800,000 people were hacked to death in one hundred days! How did God react to the carnage? By doting on the perpetrators in a grandfatherly fashion? By refusing to condemn the bloodbath but instead affirming the perpetrators' basic goodness? Wasn't God fiercely angry with them? Though I used to complain about the indecency of the idea of God's wrath, I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love." Miroslav Volf

Can a violent God be trusted?

Genesis 6:7: "So the Lord said, 'I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created.'"

Genesis 6:13 "So God said to Noah, 'I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them.'"

Genesis 6:19: "You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you."

"... biblical authors are not interested in giving us what we need to recreate the event in its pure facticity but rather in using the event to communicate their theological message. It is their theological message that carries the authority God vested in them. Events are not inspired; interpretations of events are inspired." John Walton

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

Resource List

If you'd like to read more about this topic take a look at these resources.

Rabbi Steve Leder - More Beautiful than Before- How Suffering Transforms Us.

Tim Keller - Walking with God Through Pain and Suffering

The Lost World series by John Walton (6 volumes)

Viktor Frankl - Man's Search for Meaning

Max Lucado - You'll Get Through This

D. A. Carson - How Long O' Lord

Tremper Longman - Confronting Old Testament Controversies

Richard Stengel - Mandela's Way

Desmond Tutu - Book of Forgiving

Luc Ferry - A Brief History of Thought

Joshua Swamidass - The Genealogical Adam and Eve

G. K. Beale and Mitchell Kim - God Dwells Among Us

John Walton - The Book of Job - <https://youtu.be/GwkcktNpvTQ>