

God of Peace, God of War : Part 1

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What you are about to read may shock you. It may trouble you and shake you to your core. It may force you to take a hard look at your own Christian beliefs, and perhaps even cause you to question some of the things which you have embraced for your entire Christian life. If this series does result in giving you a spiritual jolt, then I will have fulfilled my purpose in writing it.

For quite some time now -- I can't say for exactly how long; perhaps for a few years or more -- I have been troubled by, and in a state of inner turmoil, concerning certain events which we find in the pages of the Old Testament. Many of my fellow Christians are no doubt familiar with the accounts which concern the conquest of the Promised Land -- or Canaan -- by the Israelites, under the leadership of Moses, Joshua, and Caleb. Most Christians rarely give much thought to these Old Testament stories, preferring instead to dwell upon the Gospels and the Epistles of the New Testament, and the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and His first Apostles. After all, Jesus is the Foundation Stone and the Cornerstone of our Faith, as we can determine by verses such as these:

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock [meaning Himself] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."  
Matthew 16:18, KJV

"Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"

Matthew 21:42, KJV

"This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner."

Acts 4:11, KJV

"And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

1 Peter 2:4-8, KJV

However, while this is indeed true, at the same time, the fact remains that the Old Testament is filled with Messianic Prophecies concerning the coming Christ, and both Jesus and His Apostles were of Jewish descent. Thus, we are connected to the ancient history of the Israelites, as it is recorded in the Old Testament. In my series entitled "The Psalm 83 War False Doctrine Exposed!", I discuss some of the nations and peoples which the Israelites conquered and subdued as they took possession of the land of Canaan. However, it is exactly how they conquered those nations which troubles me to this very day.

The fact of the matter is that the Old Testament Scriptures make it very clear that the Israelites often engaged in the wholesale slaughter of men, women and children. Sometimes, however, they were permitted to keep the younger girls for themselves. That they did these things is made plain by the following sample verses:

"Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. And the LORD our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people. And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain: Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took."  
Deuteronomy 2:32-35, KJV

"So the LORD our God delivered into our hands Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people: and we smote him until none was left to him remaining. And we took all his cities at that time, there was not a city which we took not from them, threescore cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many. And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon,

utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city. But all the cattle, and the spoil of the cities, we took for a prey to ourselves."  
Deuteronomy 3:3-7, KJV

"And the children of Israel took all the women of Midian captives, and their little ones, and took the spoil of all their cattle, and all their flocks, and all their goods. And they burnt all their cities wherein they dwelt, and all their goodly castles, with fire. And they took all the spoil, and all the prey, both of men and of beasts . . . Now therefore kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman that hath known man by lying with him. But all the women children, that have not known a man by lying with him, keep alive for yourselves."  
Numbers 31:9-11, 17-18, KJV

Whether you are a Christian or not, I would like to ask you to really stop and think about what those verses are telling us. If some modern nation were to attack another nation, and kill all of its men, women and children, and utterly destroy all of their cities, there would no doubt be a global uproar and international condemnation. That nation would be accused of ethnic cleansing and genocide within the blink of an eye. The United Nations Security Council, NATO and other world bodies would be forced to take action sooner or later, just as they have been doing with the Arab nation of Syria, and its president, Bashar al-Assad, who has been using his armed forces to slaughter Syrians who are opposed to repressive regime.

Yet, at the same time, because these historical events are found in the pages of the Bible, and because we Christians accept the Bible as God's holy, inspired Word, we have been taught that we have no choice but to accept these violent, despicable acts which were committed by the Israelites, as God's Divine Will. In fact, the Scriptures inform us that the Israelites were ordered to carry out these mass murder campaigns by God Himself, through His anointed leaders; that is, Moses, Joshua and Caleb.

Folks, I have been a Christian for my entire life. Ever since I was a young boy I have read the Bible. Like many people of my age, as a teenager, I "officially" accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior at a "Jesus House" in San Jose, CA. The majority of the past forty years of my life have been solely dedicated to serving the Lord in one fashion or another. The past eighteen years have been devoted to my writing ministry and online evangelism. Yet, after all of this time, after all that I have done for the Lord, after the many years that I have spent studying His Word, I still remain greatly troubled by the ancient atrocities of the Israelites. They remain one of the most difficult things for me to personally accept in the Bible.

Similar to many other Christians, over the years I have tried to accept these Old Testament accounts of cold-blooded mass murder, and the destruction of entire cities, by the ancient Israelites as God's Will and a part of His Divine Plan. In my endeavors to try to justify these events, I have considered different possibilities. For example, I have thought, "Well, perhaps it was all necessary in order to produce the Savior;

but that does not make any sense. I am not convinced that the all-powerful Creator of the whole Universe had to instruct the Israelites to murder thousands or millions of Gentiles, just so His Son could one day be born into the world in the land of Judea. This is an indefensible argument in my view, even though for a number of years I tried to convince myself that it was sustainable.

Do you honestly believe that genocide and ethnic cleansing were necessary in order to achieve God's purpose? I am very interested in your views. If it was okay for the Israelites to utterly destroy men, women and children, and to demolish their cities, then how does that make them -- or us for that matter -- any better than any other heathen nations which do the very same things? Why are we so quick to condemn other nations and oppressive governments when they engage in such despicable acts, while the Israelites are given the green light?

To drive this point home, why could the ancient Israelites kill children with impunity, while if Palestinian suicide bombers do it today, they are immediately labeled as violent terrorists? Why do we accept Israelites killing men, women and children for their God, while at the same time we are so quick to condemn Muslims when they kill people for their god, Allah? Doesn't this seem like a double standard? If we rely upon the argument that it was God's Will for the Israelites to do these things and point to the Scriptures, we run into a major problem, because the Muslims can point to their holy book -- the Qur'an -- to justify killing for their faith as well. So the question that we need to ask ourselves is if it was really God's Will for the ancient Israelites to commit these atrocious acts, or if we have simply been given a bogus bill of sale.

When one reads about Jesus' teachings concerning peace, love and forgiveness in the New Testament, it is not difficult to see the vast contrast between the God of Love which He and the Apostles promoted, who desires that all men repent and be saved, and the God of war and retribution who fills the pages of the Old Testament. As I explain in other articles, such as "The Fruits of Disobedience", "Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement: and "Beholding the Evil and the Good", while we are told that God does afflict us when it becomes necessary, it is in the hope that His dealings with us will bring about repentance and healing in our lives. Consider these verses:

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"  
Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness . . . For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."  
Lamentations 3:22-23, 31-33, KJV

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should

be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."  
Luke 9:51-56, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."  
2 Peter 3:9, KJV

"And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."  
Hebrews 12:5-13, KJV

So as you can plainly see, the God of the New Testament does not desire to condemn and to destroy, but rather to heal and to save. In contrast, while the God of the Old Testament also displays these same characteristics as well -- at least with the Israelites -- He also appears to be quick to judge, make war, and destroy. As we have seen with the clear examples of the Israelites who utterly destroyed men, women and children in the name of God, quite often this was done without any degree of mercy being shown whatsoever. So again, the God of the Old Testament is painted as a God of War, as we see by this verse:

"The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name."  
Exodus 15:3, KJV

In contrast to this picture of a God of War which we find in the pages of the Old Testament, we are given a picture of a God of Peace who desires peace with all men through Christ in the following verses that are found in the New Testament:

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

Matthew 5:5, KJV

"Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Matthew 5:9, KJV

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

"Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

Matthew 26:52, KJV

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."

Romans 12:18, KJV

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"

Hebrews 12:14, KJV

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?"

James 4:1, KJV

"Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen."

Romans 15:33, KJV

"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."

Romans 16:20, KJV

"Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

Philippians 4:9, KJV

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 5:23, KJV

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:20-21, KJV

To me personally, it almost seems as if the God of the Old Testament era is an entirely different God. He does not seem like the God of John 3:16 with whom so many Christians have become familiar. It is as if somewhere between the pages of the Old and the New Testaments, God examined Himself, didn't like what He saw, had a change of heart, and decided that He was tired of His image of being a God of War. So He decided

to have a "Divine Makeover", forsook some of His Wrath and all of the merciless killing, and began to promote Himself as a God of Peace instead. I find this rather perplexing.

Now, to add a degree of balance to my previous statements, let me also mention that the New Testament likewise paints God as a God of War. However, there is a clear distinction in how this is presented. As we have seen, in the pages of the Old Testament, the Israelite army is killing men, women and children, burning down entire cities, etc. It is human warfare; human killing human. However, in the pages of the New Testament, what is primarily described is spiritual warfare; Satan versus God, the Angels of God versus the Fallen Angels of the Devil, Jesus casting out demons, etc. As we saw in the previous verses, Jesus in fact admonished against using the sword. He sent a very clear message to Peter and the other Apostles that Christianity was not to be propagated through violence and the sword, but rather through love and personal sacrifice.

The one exception is in the Book of Revelation, where we do see humans engaged in warfare against God. However, what we need to recognize is that this too is actually a spiritual war; because the Beast, the False Prophet and the armies of the nations who follow them are directly influenced by and deceived by the Devil and his evil minions. Consider these verses:

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

Matthew 11:12, KJV

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Ephesians 6:12, KJV

"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,"

Revelation 12:7, KJV

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Revelation 17:14, KJV

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND

LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."  
Revelation 19:11-21, KJV

So as you can see, this is not human against human, and it is not the same as what the Israelites were doing in the Old Testament with their wholesale slaughter of men, women and young children, and their destruction of enemy cities. As I have mentioned before, what I also find interesting is the fact that during the Old Testament period, although it was not the only reason, God specifically did not permit King David to build a Temple for Him, precisely because he was a man of war, and had shed blood, as we see by these verses:

"Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building: But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood."  
1 Chronicles 28:2-3, KJV

This makes the picture even more perplexing; because on one hand, the Scriptures inform us that God's chosen leadership -- Moses, Joshua and Caleb -- instructed the Israelite army to mercilessly kill everyone and destroy everything, while on the other hand, King David is not permitted to build the Temple due to the fact that he was a man of war who had a lot of blood on his hands. The Israelites slaughtered men, women and children supposedly by God's order, so Moses had a lot of blood on his hands. In fact, as you may know, on one occasion, when the Israelites were fighting against the Amalekites, they were only winning the battle as long as Moses held his hands in the air, as we see by these verses:

"And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the



sun. And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword."  
Exodus 17:9-13, KJV

Yet in spite of the fact that Moses had so much blood on his hands, not only was he permitted by the Lord to enter into the Tabernacle -- which was the precursor to the Temple where the Ark of the Covenant was kept -- but he was also allowed to speak with the Lord face-to-face, as we see by these verses:

"And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door. And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle."  
Exodus 33:8-11, KJV

In short, even though both Moses and King David were men of war who had blood on their hands, God only seems to hold this fact against King David, who earnestly desired to build the House of the Lord; a project which was ultimately left to his son, King Solomon. Exactly how we are supposed to reconcile these obviously opposing facts, I honestly do not know. Maybe it was because Moses didn't engage in battle directly himself. However, even this assumption is questionable, because just by being required to keep his hands raised in the air, and by directing the battles from afar, there really isn't that much of a difference.

Now, I realize that I am being rather candid regarding this issue, and some of my readers may even be shocked to see me making such statements. Some Christians may even consider me a heretic for seeming to doubt something that is written in the Bible. However, while few Christians will even have the audacity to talk about the ancient slaughters of the Jews -- either because they are embarrassed by them, or just because they don't quite know how to deal with the subject or how to respond to it -- I have no doubt that there are many other God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians who probably have the very same thoughts and questions as I do concerning this issue.

Maybe they simply fear rejection for voicing their concerns, as I have just done here, and so they prefer to remain kind of hush hush about it, and it has become a taboo subject in their church or denomination. Let's face it. No Christian wants to be accused of not believing in the entire Bible as the inspired and inerrant word of God. Furthermore, there are quite a few American Christians who are fearful of being accused of being antisemitic.

As I mention in other articles, I find it rather tragic how spiritually drunk some Christians have become on Israel and the Jews. They bend over backwards to please the Jews, and to

demonstrate to them how pro-Israel they are. They have their shofars in their churches, they observe Jewish feast days, they call Jesus by His Jewish name, and they do whatever else they can in order to win points with the Jews. It makes me wonder if these Christians are endeavoring to win the Jews to our Christian faith, or if they are slowly being converted to Judaism instead. If they are not careful, the next thing you know, these Christians will find themselves under the bondage of the Mosaic Law again; which is precisely what the false Jewish brethren were endeavoring to do in the First Century Church as well. I discuss this issue in other articles in considerable detail.

I don't doubt that by making these remarks, and by questioning the "Divine Mandate" behind the bloody battles of the ancient Israelites, where everyone -- including young children -- was mercilessly slaughtered, I will probably receive a few pieces of hate mail, and will more than likely be accused of being antisemitic. After all, as the old saying goes, it is the hit dog that howls. It won't be the first time; and to be quite honest, I simply cannot be concerned with such things. The truth still remains the truth regardless of whether or not people are willing and able to accept it.

If there is one thing which my regular readers should know about me by now, it is that I always endeavor to speak the truth concerning the Scriptures. I do not make it a habit of bowing to political correctness in order to avoid offending my audience. I have a responsibility with the Lord to tell it like it is, regardless of whether or not it is popular and acceptable. There is no room for weakness, and I avoid compromise at all cost.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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God of Peace, God of War : Part 2

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How Would You React To Genocide And Ethnic Cleansing Today?, Psalm 83 War Doctrine, Misguided Christians Supporting A War Against Iran, We Are Not Of This World And Shouldn't Become Overly Entangled With It, Were Alterations Made To The Old Testament War Accounts To Favor The Israelites?, Holy Wars: Christian Crusades, Muslim Jihads, The Conquest Of Canaan, Reactions Amongst Christians, Israelites Sacrifice Children To Molech, KJV Bible Is Inspired, Is KJV Bible Inerrant?, Original KJV Included Apocrypha, Many Corrections Were Made To The KJV, 1611 Or 1769 Version?, Original Autographs Were

Inspired By God, The Translators To The Reader, Objective Of KJV Translators, Intentional Manipulation Of The Scriptures, "Slave" Only Used Once In Entire KJV Bible Despite Slavery Being Widely Practiced In 1611, Ease With Which Corruption Can Occur And Meanings Changed In The Scriptures, Luke 23:43, Doctrines Are Directly Affected By Textual Manipulation And Corruption, Manipulation By Roman Catholic Church, God Has Preserved Most Important Elements Of His Word Despite Human Manipulation, Light Of Salvation, Biblical Cafeteria Or The Whole Course, Importance Of Textual Criticism To Find Truth

Having stated all of the above, allow me to ask you a simple question. If an incident very similar to the aforementioned Biblical events that are described in the Books of Numbers and Deuteronomy were to occur today, how would you react to it? Would you personally accept the wholesale slaughter of men, women and children as being the Will of God if it were painted as such? If some of your non-believing friends were to ask you directly "Do you really believe that is the will of your Christian God?" How would you respond to them? It is an uncomfortable question, isn't it?

So shouldn't we be just as uncomfortable regarding these Old Testament stories where the Israelites slaughtered men, women and children? If we are not, then why aren't we? Do you see my point? We Christians have been conditioned to accept these stories regarding extreme violence being committed by the Jews for the past two thousand years. However, if something similar were to occur today, we would not accept it. We would find it disgusting, repulsive and even ungodly. If we received reports of hundreds or thousands of young children being murdered in the name of God, we would immediately condemn it without any hesitation. Well, at least most of us would.

Sadly, as I point out in the series "The Psalm 83 War False Doctrine Exposed!", there are some misguided Christians even now who are foolishly making war cries, and fully supporting Israeli intentions of bombing Iran; even though there is no clear evidence that Iran has a nuclear weapon, or will have a nuclear bomb anytime soon, or even has intentions of dropping a bomb on Israel, if it did have one. Let's remember what the Lord said regarding "wars and rumors of wars" and take heed! If we Christians are not of this world, and are not supposed to become entangled in the affairs of this current life -- as the Apostle Paul informs us -- then why are these Christians taking sides in this matter, and hoping that Israel will bomb Iran? Isn't this contrary to the Scriptures? Consider the following verses:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."  
John 15:19, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"  
2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which

are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

To reiterate, taking sides in any war or potential war -- even if it involves the Jews -- is in total contradiction to the previous Scriptures. It is making ourselves a part of the world, which we are not supposed to do. That some Christians have even openly expressed their desire on the Internet that Israel will "kick butt" in Iran, just demonstrates how very deceived these people are, in my view.

To be quite honest, I have been so perplexed by the opposing images of God that we find in the Old and the New Testaments, and the bloody, merciless wars of the ancient Israelites who slaughtered everyone -- including young children -- that it has caused me to ponder the possibility that perhaps some of the Old Testament stories were written with a particular bias by the original authors, and if not by them, then perhaps by later scribes who copied the original texts which eventually wore out and decayed, due to the passage of time. After all, let us not forget that what we have today in the form of the Bible is the result of copies of copies of copies over a huge period of time, millennia in fact.

In other words, is it possible that certain accounts were purposely written -- or later rewritten -- so as to appear as if they were the Will of God, when in reality they were no such thing? Is it remotely possible that the "glorious wars" and the "glorious conquests" of the Israelites, as they marched their armies into the land of Canaan, weren't

any different -- or more holy -- than the countless bloody wars which violent human beings have always waged against each other ever since man first walked upon this Earth?

More to the point, is it possible that the Hebrews' ancient land grabs, genocide and ethnic cleansing -- including the murder of children -- have been disguised as the Will of God by unknown ancient Jewish writers who had a particular agenda in mind? Was God used as a justification for their heinous acts of cold-blooded murder of men, women and children? Bold questions indeed; but before you outright dismiss them, let me remind you of something which may possibly help you to see these ancient Biblical events in a new light.

During the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries, something somewhat similar to the Old Testament war campaigns of the Israelites occurred in Europe, Western Asia and the Middle East. At that time, many thousands of volunteer military units -- that were primarily under the banner and control of the Catholic Church -- marched across Europe in order to liberate Jerusalem from the Muslims, and to stem the tide of the Muslim advances into Turkey and Europe. Just like the Israelites, they plundered and massacred -- Jews and Muslims alike -- in the name of our Christian God. The Crusades were framed by the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church as holy wars which were blessed by God, just as the wars of the Israelites were also framed as holy wars, and just as the jihads -- or holy wars against infidels and unbelievers -- of the Muslims were said to be blessed by Allah.

So here we see the three monotheistic religions -- Judaism, Christianity and Islam -- all waging bloody wars, massacring people, and pillaging and plundering, each in the name of their particular god. But the irony of the situation is this. If you ask a non-Catholic, Bible-believing Christian what he thinks of the Muslims' jihads, he will condemn them. If you ask him what he thinks of the Christian Crusades, he will also condemn them. In fact, I found it interesting that when I visited the Wikipedia website in order to obtain some info regarding the Christian Crusades, I couldn't even find it by using the term "Christian Crusades". I had to look for it by the word "crusades" alone. I couldn't help but wonder if it was an attempt to disassociate the Crusades from our modern Christian faith, because they are an embarrassment to what most Christians believe concerning our faith.

However, if you ask that same Christian person what he thinks of the Old Testament wars which were waged by the Israelites, he will offer a very different response, particularly if he happens to be an American Christian. Despite the blatant acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing which are revealed in the verses that I shared in part one, the typical response will be something like "Oh, they are the 'Chosen People'. It was the Will of God." Jaw drop! Do you see something wrong with this picture? Just like that, the Jews are the chosen of God, so their acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, plundering and pillaging are acceptable, yet if Christians or Muslims engage in the same things, it is a horrible crime worthy of strong condemnation.

Of course, not all Christians react in that fashion. There are some who hesitantly accept these Old Testament accounts,

and who will even refuse to discuss them, because they are such an embarrassment to them, or because they simply do not want to be associated with the violent, vengeful God of the Old Testament who even seemed to order the Israelites to kill children. Should we even view it as a contradiction that God condemned the Israelites for offering their own children to the sacrificial fires of the false god Molech, while at the same time He ordered them to mercilessly kill the children of their enemies? Consider these verses:

"And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD."  
Leviticus 18:21, KJV

"Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones. And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name. And if the people of the land do any ways hide their eyes from the man, when he giveth of his seed unto Molech, and kill him not: Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people."  
Leviticus 20:2-5, KJV

"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded."  
1 Kings 11:4-10, KJV

"For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD. For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face, Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not

hearkened to receive instruction. But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin." Jeremiah 32:30-35, KJV

So once again we see what appears to be a double standard which says "You shouldn't kill your own children, but it is okay to kill your enemy's children." Was this placed in the Scriptures by the original writers, or is it possible that it was added sometime later by someone else who wanted to paint these terrible massacres of men, women and children by the Israelites as God's Will?

Before anyone accuses me of being a heretic for daring to ask such bold questions, allow me to point out a few facts concerning our beloved KJV Bible. As I ask in my eight-part series entitled "Roman Catholicism, Water Baptism and the Trinity", is the Bible that we use today truly the inspired, inerrant Word of God? As a dedicated user of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible for forty years, my personal position is that while I believe that the KJV Bible is truly inspired, I cannot say with all honesty that it is inerrant. In other words, I am not convinced that every single word is God-breathed and "Thus saith the Lord". Furthermore, I dare say that this same truth can be equally applied to all of the other versions of the Bible which are available at this current time, and probably even more so.

Contrary to the belief which is held by some KJV extremists who insist in the inerrancy of the King James Version of the Bible, there is sufficient textual evidence to indicate that the KJV has not escaped the pen of the revisionists who were motivated by either political or religious reasons. Allow me to give you a simple example which you can easily verify for yourself. If the King James Bible is truly the inerrant Word of God, and if it has never been manipulated as certain KJV extremists like to claim, then please explain to me why it is that the original 1611 KJV included the Apocrypha, while the same books are excluded from modern versions of the alleged 1611 King James Bible.

The word "inerrant" signifies "without error"; yet since the Authorized King James Version of the Bible was first printed in 1611, a substantial number of corrections have been made to it. These include printing error corrections, spelling corrections, changing some words from singular to plural and vice versa, removing words, inserting words, and much more. In fact, it may surprise you to know that what is passed off today as the 1611 King James Bible is in reality the 1769 version of the KJV Bible. But it gets worse, as you will see in a moment.

Now, let me make something clear for you. Insofar as the New Testament is concerned, the original First Century autographs -- or manuscripts -- as authored by the First Apostles and Disciples were inspired. As these verses reveal, the same can be said of the original writings of the authors of the Old Testament as well. They were indeed inspired by God's Spirit:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

2 Timothy 3:16, KJV

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts . . . For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

2 Peter 1:19, 21, KJV

However, what we need to recognize is that since that time when the original autographs were first written by the Old and New Testaments authors, humanity has had thousands of years in which to alter and manipulate God's Word; and it has indeed happened, whether you are willing to accept this truth or not. I'm not just referring to printing corrections and spelling correction as I mentioned a moment ago, but to more serious manipulations. Therefore, it is my view that to continue to stubbornly insist that the KJV Bible is without any errors whatsoever -- or is inerrant -- is to purposely, wishfully and naively ignore the historical facts.

If you are interested in reading what the actual translators of the Authorized King James Version of the Bible had to say regarding their translation, I encourage you to read their "The Translators to the Reader" introduction text, which you will find on the following page of the Endtime Prophecy Net website:

<http://www.endtimeprophecy.net/Articles-Non-EPN/2theread.html>

What you will learn from the aforementioned text is that the translators did not necessarily view their translation as the final translation of the Holy Scriptures. Their desire was to make something good, even better. However, better does not necessarily equate to perfect or inerrant: In their own words the translators inform us of the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Truly, good Christian reader, we never thought from the beginning, that we should need to make a new translation, nor yet to make of a bad one a good one (for then the imputation of Sixtus had been true in some sort, that our people had been fed with gall of dragons instead of wine, with whey instead of milk); but to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principal good one, not justly to be excepted against. That hath been our endeavor, that our mark."

----- End Quote -----

As I stated a moment ago, aside from printing and spelling corrections, more significant changes have been made to what we know as the Authorized King James Version of the Bible. Whether these changes were well-meaning alterations that were implemented in order to enhance the reader's understanding, or errors which resulted from confusing marginal notes with



the actual Biblical text, or intentional falsifications which were made in order to promote certain doctrinal or political ideologies which were embraced by the individuals who were involved in the manipulation, nevertheless, they were made to the original autographs of the Prophets and the Apostles. As I said, if something is considered inerrant, then there is no need to correct it, because it contains no errors.

One form of intentional manipulation occurs in the manner of the translation from the original languages themselves. One obvious example which I mention in the article "The Lamb of God Was a Goat", as well as in "The International Jews and the Protocols of Zion", concerns the word "slave", and its Hebrew equivalent "ebed". It may surprise some of you to learn that even though slavery is mentioned throughout the entire Bible, except for one solitary instance that is found in the second chapter of the Book of Jeremiah, the two words "slave" and "slavery" are not to be found anywhere in the entire King James Version of the Bible. Why is this, and how could this happen?

The verse in question where the actual word "slave" is used is the following. For the sake of my readers who are not reading this series online, I have put brackets around the three words which are actually in italics in the King James Version of the Bible. The fact that they are in italics is to denote that they were inserted by the KJV translators as a means to clarify what the verse means and to make it fluid:

"[Is] Israel a servant? [is] he a homeborn [*slave*]? why is he spoiled?"  
Jeremiah 2:14, KJV

I find it amazing that even though the descendants of Jacob and his twelve sons spent hundreds of years working as lowly slaves, and were forced to endure hard labor in the land of Egypt, they are never directly referred to as slaves in the KJV Bible. Why is there such an obvious omission? I suspect that it may be due to the fact that "slave" was a politically sensitive word for the KJV translators. We need to remember that at that particular time in history, England was heavily indulged in slavery. Furthermore, this same attitude towards slavery and the practice of keeping slaves was carried over to America by white European Christians. Look how long it took to eradicate this evil in the USA. Shameful, isn't it?

Is it possible then that if the KJV translators had chosen to use the word "slave" in the Bible, it would have offended the king, and other readers of the Bible as well? Is this why the translators chose to use softer, less offensive words? At any rate, the omission of the word "slave" amounts to intentional manipulation and corruption of the Scriptures, due to both political and religious considerations. Furthermore, this is just one small example; and it is minor compared to much more serious corruptions of God's Word.

As some of you probably already know, the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts were not divided into chapters and verses, as we know the Bible today. This organizational division of the Scriptures was a more modern manipulation of God's Word that actually began during the thirteenth century. But what I would like to point out to you is this. By just changing the

method in which the original manuscripts are divided into individual verses, we can substantially change the meaning of God's Word. If a sentence is broken in half, for example, and one half is included in one verse, and the other half is in the next verse, it could potentially alter the intent of the original author.

In fact, translation is so sensitive of an issue, that just by placing one punctuation mark in the wrong place, we can substantially alter the meaning of God's Word. Allow me to give you a simple example with the verse Luke 23:43. In the King James Version of the Bible, this verse states:

"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."  
Luke 23:43, KJV

Imagine, however, if somewhere along the way, and over the course of years, some unknown individual wasn't careful, and instead of copying Luke 23:43 as we see it above, he copied the following instead:

"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee to day, thou shalt be with me in paradise."  
Luke 23:43, KJV

By simply moving one comma to after the words "to day", and reversing "shalt thou" to "thou shalt", we have altered the meaning of the verse. The original KJV version seems to say that the thief would be with Jesus in Paradise the very same day. The altered verse does not say this, simply because the comma has been moved. It indicates that the thief will be with Jesus in Paradise, but it does not clearly say when he will be in Paradise. Will it be the same day, or will it be at some other time? We honestly don't know, because moving the comma has made the verse unclear. Just one comma moved. That is all it really took in order to alter the meaning of the verse. The question is, how did the translators know where to place it, and how did they determine that it is now in the right place?

The above example is a simple demonstration of how unintended corruption of the Scriptures can occur. However, as I stated a moment ago, there are clear indications that more serious and intentional manipulations exist in God's Word. Obviously, I am not the first person to make this fact known. There have been a number of prominent theologians and textual critics who have shared their observations down through the years. I discuss some of these in my series "Roman Catholicism, Water Baptism and the Trinity". I encourage you to read it if you have the time and the interest. If you still doubt that what I am saying is true concerning the KJV, then conduct a Google search using "What corrections have been made to the 1611 KJV Bible?" and see what happens.

The problem is that when more serious manipulation occurs in the Scriptures, it can have a direct affect on the doctrines of our faith. If you take the time to conduct a fair amount of research, you will discover a number of corruptions in the KJV Bible text which demonstrate how various heretical teachings have been insidiously introduced into our faith by entities such as the Roman Catholic Church, beginning around

the Fourth Century -- and possibly earlier. Again, these are intentional alterations which were made to the Scriptures. Evidence suggests that partial alterations have been made to some verses, while in other instances, verses have actually been invented and added to the Biblical text.

If you are learning this information for the very first time, you may be alarmed. You may possibly even be wondering "Well, if what you are saying is true, then what am I supposed to believe? If the Bible is not inerrant, why should I even read it?". My response to you is this: While I do not believe that the Bible -- KJV or otherwise -- is inerrant, I do embrace the belief that God is more powerful than man, and that He is more than capable of preserving what He considers to be the most important aspects and elements of His Word, regardless of what man has tried to do to it over the millennia.

In other words, in spite of the tampering by humanity, whether accidental or intentional, I am still of the opinion that what God wants us to know remains safely intact in the Scriptures. What it really comes down to is faith. We simply must have the faith to believe that God has trumped the machinations of both political and religious authorities, inattentive printers and slothful scribes. His main message to us has never been lost. Of course, God's primary message to humanity is Salvation by Grace, through faith in the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This Gospel -- or Good News -- is the Light which no man has been able to extinguish, and hopefully, will never be able to extinguish until the Lord returns.

Some of my longtime readers may be thinking to themselves, "Well, wait a minute. In "A Biblical Cafeteria or the Whole Course?", didn't you say that we cannot and should not treat God's Word like a spiritual cafeteria? Didn't you write that we cannot pick and choose, or accept just those things which we like and agree with? Didn't you say that we must accept it all?". Indeed I did, and I stand by my words. To clarify, I do believe that the bloody wars of the Israelites occurred as they are described for us in the Old Testament. I likewise believe that the Bible translators endeavored to accurately translate into English what was written in the Hebrew texts.

What I am questioning is the accuracy and the reliability of some of those Hebrew texts. I am not questioning or doubting God's Word, I am questioning what unscrupulous individuals may possibly have done to God's Word. I am questioning how much of what we read in some of these Old Testament stories is God's original, unaltered Word as it was first written in the Hebrew language, and how much of it has been manipulated by unknown individuals over the course of millennia. Do you understand the difference? This is what textual criticism is all about. It is an endeavor to distinguish between what is true and what is false, what is chaff and what is real wheat. It is a serious endeavor to determine if what we are reading is actually the true, original Word of God, or if something has been altered, or added to it.

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

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God of Peace, God of War : Part 3

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Textual Criticism, Were Old Testament War Stories Altered?, Jewish Religious Leadership Attempts To Manipulate And Hide Jesus' Resurrection, Power Behind Historical Revisionism, Historical Revisionism In Our Modern Day, Long-Term Impact Of Textual Changes To the Scriptures, Accumulation Of Small Changes Can Be Very Damaging, Some Biblical Manipulation Is So Subtle That It Cannot Be Detected, Inerrant Word Of God Is Nonexistent In Our Modern Day, Concerns Regarding People Losing Faith In The Bible, My Motivations For Writing This Series, God Is God And Will Do As He Will, Replying Against God, Be A Berean: Thoroughly Examine A Matter To Verify Its Scriptural Soundness And Reliability, Concluding Remarks

As I concluded in part two, textual criticism is a serious endeavor to distinguish between what is true and what is false, and what is chaff and what is real wheat in God's Word. It is an attempt to determine if what we are reading is actually the true, original Word of God, or if something has been altered or added to it in some way. If something has been added surreptitiously or unintentionally, the aim is for the process of textual criticism to discover it, and to remove it. To learn more about textual criticism, you may want to visit this page:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Textual\\_criticism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Textual_criticism)

If certain verses in the New Testament have been proven by various theologians and textual critics to be spurious text, or have been manipulated in some way -- again, please refer to "Roman Catholicism, Water Baptism and the Trinity" -- is it wise for us to ignore the possibility that the very same thing may have occurred with Old Testament verses as well? If copyists and scribes accidentally or intentionally altered the contents of the New Testament, it seems quite plausible that similar corruption may have been introduced into the Old Testament at some point in history as well.

Having said that, we should not discount the possibility that some of the Jewish scribes may have accidentally -- or even intentionally -- altered some of the accounts of the ancient wars of the Israelites, in order to cast those wars in a more favorable light, as the Will of God against their enemies. If you honestly believe that Jacob has been the only deceiver throughout Jewish history, you are extremely naive and need to think again. In fact, allow me to share with you one clear Scriptural example where those crafty Jews intentional tried

to manipulate their own history in the New Testament. Many of you will already be familiar with the following account:

"Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day." Matthew 28:11-15, KJV

Folks, there is no denying what is described in those verses. The Jewish religious leaders purposely bribed the soldiers in order to manipulate the historical record. They intentionally tried to destroy the evidence of Christ's Resurrection before it could become a part of the historical record. They wanted to cast the Disciples in a negative light, in order to make themselves look better. That is a clear example of historical revisionism in the making; so why couldn't they have done the very same thing in the Old Testament as well? Thank God that Matthew was wise enough to expose this scheme for us. Sadly, while the truth made it into the Scriptures, the damage was done; and today, the vast majority of Jews still reject the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Thus we can witness the power behind historical revisionism. Thus again we see that historical revisionism is not really anything new. Whether in the Bible or without, many a scribe has probably enhanced an account, lest he feel the wrath of his king. Furthermore, historical revisionism continues to this very day. Subtle changes are regularly made in history books, in other research and academic materials, as well as in newspapers and other forms of mass media, for the sake of conveying a particular point of view, and to manipulate the public's opinion. Needless-to-say, what is conveyed as truth is more often than not the opinion of the powers-that-be. In other words, many are the Winston Smiths who are employed by Big Brother's Ministry of Truth around the world.

As we learned in part two, it is important to realize that a change in the Biblical text does not have to be very large in order to have a profound effect on how we understand and perceive the Scriptures, past historical events, Christian doctrine, etc. Just one misplaced comma can vastly alter the meaning of a verse. In fact, it is the cumulative effect of many small changes that are made over a period of time which can ultimately have the most damaging and lasting effect on how Christians today understand the Bible. Such changes can result in a shift in our perception, and can affect Christian doctrine for many centuries to come.

And now for the big question. Do I know for a fact that this type of intentional manipulation occurred with any of the Old Testament war stories where the Israelites killed men, women and children? Obviously not. However, allow me to point out to you that even some theologians willingly acknowledge that there are some intentional manipulations of the Scriptures which are so subtle, and which have been in the text for so long, that it has become virtually impossible to detect them.

Thus, as difficult as it may be for some of you to accept, if we are really honest with ourselves, we have to admit that in reality, in our current day, there is really no such thing as the truly inerrant Word of God. Inspired? Yes, but error free and beyond any possible manipulation? Absolutely not in my view, and I am not alone regarding this position.

In writing this series, I fully realize that by stating these things, and by making my claim regarding the nonexistence of the inerrant Word of God at our present time, serious concerns will be raised. Some people will question if this series will result in some Christians losing their faith in the Bible as the inspired Word of God. I certainly hope not, because that is most definitely not my intention. If anyone loses faith, it is because their faith is weak already, and they were looking for a reason to abandon it altogether. I cannot be blamed for that.

Aside from expressing my own concerns regarding the wars of the ancient Israelites, and the obvious acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing which were committed by them, my purpose in writing this series has been to expose the fallacy which has for so long been embraced by some Christians, such as the KJV extremists. Again, I have been a KJV-only advocate for forty years now. I believe that the King James Bible is an inspired text, and my life has been tremendously blessed by it. Yet at the same time, I am honest enough to recognize that it is not a perfect work, and that the original 1611 translators made no such claim either. That is why I often use both Hebrew and Greek lexicons in order to gain better insight regarding the precise meanings of words. I encourage you to do the same.

In conclusion, regardless of whether He is a man of peace, or a God of war, God still remains God. As such, He can do whatever He likes, whenever He likes, to whomever He likes, for whatever reason He likes, and it is not our place to say contrariwise or to question Him. Therefore, as difficult as it is for me personally to accept that God would order the Israelites to kill young children, if that is indeed what He did -- and I am still not one hundred per cent certain that this is the case -- then so be it. While at the current time it is still difficult for me to fully reconcile the contrast between the God of Peace of the New Testament, and the God of War of the Old Testament, perhaps someday, in His time, I will be able to resolve this issue to my satisfaction. For now, however, it remains a matter of faith alone.

As Moses said to the ancient Israelites, God kills, and He makes alive; and as the Lord Himself said through the Prophet Isaiah, "I will do all my pleasure". Thus, it is really not our place to reply against God. Consider these verses:

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand."  
Deuteronomy 32:39, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."

Proverbs 10:19, KJV

"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."

Ecclesiastes 5:2, KJV

"A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards."

Proverbs 29:11, KJV

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Matthew 12:37, KJV

"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"

Romans 9:20, KJV

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:"

James 1:19, KJV

However, at the same time, please remember that to question the authenticity and the purity of certain verses and events which are found in the pages of the Bible is not to doubt God Himself or His Word. It is an endeavor to simply make certain that what we are reading is really His unaltered Word. There is no evil in doing this.

In fact, if the truth be told, it is when we naively choose to just blindly accept what is spoon-fed to us by organized religion, televangelists, online preachers, etc., -- as many Christians so often do -- that we can very easily fall into doctrinal error and become deceived. Like the Bereans of old, the Scriptures exhort us to thoroughly and studiously examine a matter before we choose to accept it as doctrinal truth. We must test the spirits, and check all doctrine for Scriptural soundness and reliability, as we see by the following verses:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

"And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Acts 17:10-11, KJV

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

Of course, there is a caveat here; and that is that we must also make certain that Scripture truly is the unaltered Word of God; and that is not an easy task for the common man. With this thought, I will bring this series to its conclusion. I pray that you have found it informative, and that it has been a blessing in your life. If you have been blessed by it, I encourage you to share its URL link with all of your online friends. Also, if you have an account with Facebook, Twitter or Google+, I would very much appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of resources below, which are also located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

Roman Catholicism, Water Baptism and the Trinity  
In Defense of the KJV Bible  
History of the Authorized King James Bible

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