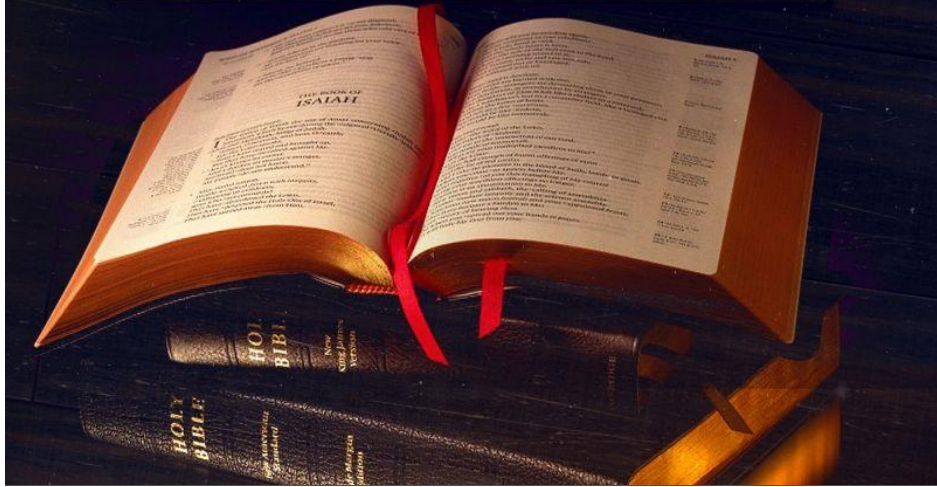


MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE



When Moses saw that the people were running wild (for Aaron had let them run wild, to the derision of their enemies), then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. He said to them, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Put your sword on your side, each of you! Go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill your brother, your friend, and your neighbor.'" The sons of Levi did as Moses commanded, and about three thousand of the people fell on that day. Moses said, "Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of a son or a brother, and so have brought a blessing on yourselves this day."

Exodus 32:25-29
NRSV

"Violence and God in the Bible"

September 13, 2019

Week 1: Jesus is the Word of God (John 1) and the Bible _____ to Him.

Reasons why we shouldn't ask this question: "Why does God seem so harsh in the Old Testament and so loving in the New Testament?"

1) It is the epitome of a _____ statement!

In the Old and New Testament, we see _____ of both God's love and God's wrath.

2) The _____ that portray God as violent are the minority in the Old Testament.

There are _____ verses in the Old Testament, and only a few hundred describe God as violent.

3) God's character never _____.

Still, how do we understand these violent passages? Two options:

1) Well, just _____ them and move on.

2) Recognize the complexity and _____ of the Bible, and then look to Jesus, the Word of God.

[Jesus is the Word in which we read all other words of Scripture.](#)
Luke 9:51-55 - Instead of calling down fire from heaven to destroy those who rejected Jesus, He died for them.

_____ was a heretic and his approach to the violence in the Bible was taking out the Old Testament, and as well the references made to it in the New Testament.

In the Bible, we read the _____ story of all time.

The Bible is a book that both begins in a _____, violence-free world and ends in a perfect, violence-free world.

In Genesis 6, we read that the violence of humanity "grieved God to his heart."

In the last book of the Bible, Jesus says He is making all things new. One day, every tear will be wiped away and death, violence, and destruction will be no more.

[The Bible doesn't testify to an angry God who is out to destroy us.](#)
[The Bible testifies to a loving God who willingly died to restore us.](#)