

Why Did God Use Violence?

God used violence because of sin. Every act of violence by God was a judgment on the sin of men or angels (Jude 5-7). I suspect the reason many don't like the idea of violence from God, is they don't like the idea of God judging sin. God has in the past, and will in the future, use physical force to destroy sin and those who commit it.

Since God is holy, just, true, and does not change, He must judge sin with justice, an *eye for an eye* (Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20; Deuteronomy 19:21). But God didn't do what the Canaanites and the Philistines did. God used physical force to destroy evil people. The inhabitants of Canaan used violence to torture people. For example, when Saul was mortally wounded in battle he asked his armor bearer to kill him, and finally fell on his own sword, because he was fearful of being tortured by the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:4), as Samson was when he put his eyes out (Judges 16).

God is the giver of life. All life belongs to Him and He does not owe anyone an explanation for taking what He has given. Life belongs to God and He can do what He wants with it (Genesis 2:7). For example:

Why do we die?

Because that's what God told Adam and Eve would happen if they sinned. Over 151,600 people die every day because Adam and Eve sinned.

Why did God bring about the violent destruction of all but eight people, at the time of Noah's flood? Because *the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually* (Genesis 6:5).

Why did God wipe out Sodom and Gomorrah? Because *their sin is exceedingly grave* (Genesis 18:20; Jude 7). Actually, God told Abraham He would spare the whole city if there were 10 righteous men (Genesis 18:32).

Why is God more violent in judging sin in the Old Testament, than He is in the New Testament? He isn't. Don't think the violent judgment of God is confined to the Old Testament. Jesus said of Jewish unbelievers, *The sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth* (Matthew 8:12).

Remember during this church/grace age God has postponed judgement for the afterlife and the next age. Describing Jesus at His second coming, the Apostle John wrote,

From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty ... Come, assemble for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men ... (Revelation 19:15-18). Not one time did Jesus ever criticize, modify or amend God's use of violence in the Old Testament.

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