

The Character of God

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Questions to consider, discuss or journal.

1. What are your reactions to the Richard Dawkins' quote?
2. Have you ever questioned the apparent dissonance of the character of God revealed in the Old Testament compared with the character of God that is revealed through Jesus? How do you reconcile the discrepancies?
3. Have dissonances in scripture ever led you to question or doubt its validity?
4. How do you relate the messages of peace and love to our enemies that Jesus preached in the Gospels with judgement and violence?
5. What does Jesus teach you about God?
6. We see examples of God allowing adjustments and concessions of His principles to cater for the culture of the time. The heart of His principles don't change, but its application may alter. Are there circumstances today when it would be appropriate to draw adjustments or concessions to our practices to better align with God's character?
7. Violence and destruction often happens in the absence of the presence of God. There are natural reactions and consequences to sin. Have you considered this reasoning for circumstances of violence and destruction specifically in the Old Testament? In your own life have you been transformed to a better version of yourself as a result of your own missteps?
8. We see God's love for His people as He embarked on a long, slow journey to reveal His true nature. Can you identify God's love for you in your own faith journey?
9. The character of God is fully manifested in Jesus; this is the lens to filter the rest of scripture through. This is the starting point and the conclusion. What are the implications?