

Rod's Comments to Ben Stein's Movie – Expelled, No Intelligence Allowed (An Atheist Response)

Ben Stein commented to atheist and evolutionist, Richard Dawkins, that he has been critical of the Old Testament God. Dawkins protested — noting that Stein isn't wrong, but that he's being too mild. Dawkins then reads this provocative paragraph from his book, *The God Delusion*:

"The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully."

How do you adequately and succinctly address such a profound and provocative statement with the intent to supply a positive and informative response? I opted to take the approach of "less is more" by just providing the definitions of the terms used and suitable passages from the Bible.

Definitions of Terms

Definitions	MisogynisticHatred of women
	HomophobicBiased against homosexuals
	InfanticidalPractice of killing newborn infants
	GenocidalDeliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group
	FilicidalKills one's own son/children
	PestilentialKills/injures with pestilence
	MegalomaniacalAn obsession with grandiose or extravagant things or actions
	SadomasochisticEnjoys inflicting physical or mental suffering on others
	CapriciouslyImpulsive or whimsical rather than acting by necessity or reason
	MalevolentMalicious behavior, having or exhibiting ill will; wishing harm to others

Issue	Possible Justification from Dawkins' Perspective	Biblical Response
Filicidal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deut 21:18-21 – Death to stubborn and rebellious sons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lev 11:45 – ‘For I am the LORD...your God; you shall be holy, for I am holy.’" Lev 25:2,23 – The land and the people of Israel belong to God Deut 29:29 – Secret things belong onto God Deut 32:4 – For all His ways are just; He is a God of faithfulness and without injustice, He is righteous and upright Is 55:8-9 – "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. Lev 18; Deut 9:4; 12:31; 18:14 – God wanted to "utterly" destroy the 7 nations of Canaan (even their animals) for their horrific sins – immorality, homosexuality, bestiality, child sacrifice, sorcery (cf Deut 20:16,17; Josh 6:21) Josh 7, like Ananias in Acts 5, were first examples of discipline to establish proper fear of God
Genocidal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex 23:23 – God will "utterly" destroy the inhabitants of the land of Israel Deut 2:34; 3:3,6-8 – Israelites annihilated the Amorites – men, women & children; but spared the animals 	
Homophobic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lev 18:22 – Men are not to lie sexually with men 	
Jealous and proud of it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ex 34:14 ... you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God Nahum 1:2 – A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; 	
Megalomaniacal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalms 57:5 – Be exalted above the heavens, O God; Let Your glory be above all the earth. 	
Misogynistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lev 27:4,5 – Women are worth less than men 	
Petty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lev 24:10-16 Death for cursing Num 15:32-36 Death for gathering wood on the Sabbath 	
Racist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deut 7:6; 14:2 – God chose Israel above all others 	
Vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Num 31:1-18 – God had Israel annihilate the Midianites for their malicious activities toward them (cf Num 22-25) 	
Capriciously malevolent bully	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lev 18; 26:14-38; Deut 7:1 – These passages address the issues on the left. God charged the Israelites not to follow in the sins of the 7 nations of Canaan (Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, Jebusites, Girgashites) – whom God wanted "utterly" destroyed – with no pity (Deut 7:16; Josh 11:20) Josh 7 – For coveting, Achan, his kids, his animals, were stoned and burned along with his belongings 	
Infanticidal		
Pestilential		
Sadomasochistic		
Unforgiving control freak		
Unjust		

Another atheist in "Expelled" was asked how he would respond to God if God were to ask him why he chose not to believe – and the atheist said he would answer God with "because You hid Yourself."

Biblical response: True, God is a God who hides Himself (Deuteronomy 31:18; Isaiah 45:15) – especially from disinterested and antagonistic non-believers so they are not forced to believe (Mark 4:11-12). Even after Christ arose from the dead He only appeared to a select group of believers (about 500 in total according to 1Corinthians 15:6), and chose not to seek out Herod, Pontius Pilate, or the Scribes, Pharisees, and Priests. However, God sufficiently reveals Himself to those who seek him (Matthew 7:7). Also, God reveals hidden things (Daniel 2:28). So our faith is not a blind faith, but a substantiated faith based on historical evidence of fulfilled prophecies; and a faith that rests on evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).