



Discussion Questions

IS GOD A MORAL MONSTER?

by Paul Copan

Chapter 9: Barbarisms, Crude Laws, and Other Imaginary Crimes?

1. Besides the passages mentioned early in the chapter (pp. 87-88), what other passages in the Old Testament strike you as harsh or brutal?
2. What is significant about the punishments in Israel in contrast to those in other parts of the ancient Near East?
3. How should we understand the “eye for an eye” (*lex talionis*) passages in the Old Testament? Is it as terrible as it appears to some readers, or as it might have previously appeared to you?

Chapter 10: Misogynistic? Women in Israel

4. In what ways does the Old Testament appear hateful toward women?
5. What was your response to the passages and examples the author used as evidence for theological, historical, and legal affirmations of female equality in the Old Testament (pp. 103-104)? Had you considered them this way before? Were they helpful/convincing, or not?
6. What are some ways Old Testament legislation actually demonstrates protection and concern for females?

Chapter 11: Bride-Price? Polygamy, Concubinage, and Other Such Questions

(Sidebar: Was anyone aware of the update on the Thomas Jefferson scandal?)

7. Which of the following topics in this chapter did you think the author gave the most convincing argument(s) for? Which arguments?
 - a. Polygamy (pp. 112-117)
 - b. Bride-Price (p. 117)
 - c. Rape (pp. 118-119)
 - d. Female POWs as war booty (pp. 119-121)

8. Were there any arguments in this chapter you disagreed with or didn't find convincing? If so, which ones?

9. Does the suggested interpretation on pp. 121-122 of the “immodest lady wrestler” in Deut. 25:11-12 make sense? How important do you think it is to consider the meaning and usage of original languages when interpreting the Bible?