

The God of the Old Testament

1. Actions of the God of the Old Testament

The following is just a sample selection of extracts from the Old Testament to illustrate the actions of the God of the Old Testament.

Abraham's Faith Confirmed (by Agreeing to Sacrifice His Son!)

[God Orders Ritual Sacrifice of Abraham's Son]

Genesis 22:1-18

2 Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."



See Also Judges 11:29-40 - Daughter as Burnt Offering?

Throughout the Old Testament animal sacrifice is seen as an important part in pleasing God.

Sodom's Depravity

[God's Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah]

Genesis 19

23 The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. 24 Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. 26 But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. 27 And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. 28 Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. 29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.



Plagues in Egypt

Two of the worst are listed below:

Exodus 9

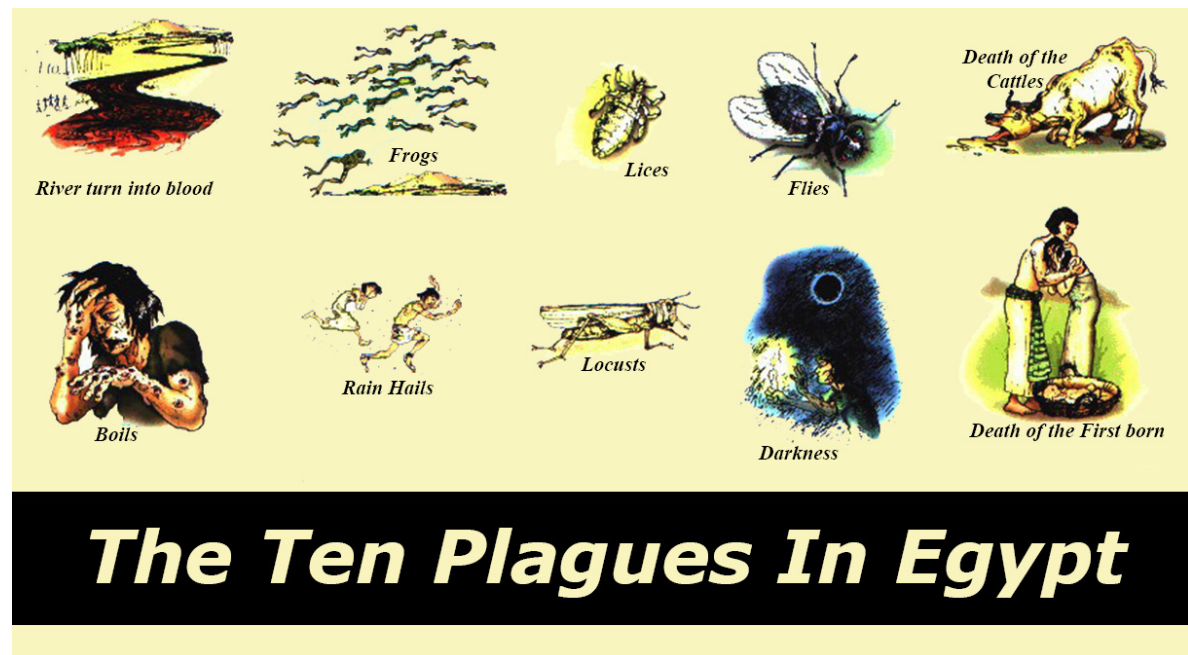
The Sixth Plague: Boils

8 So the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. 9 And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt."

Exodus 11

Death of the Firstborn

4 Then Moses said, "Thus says the Lord: 'About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; 5 and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sits on his throne, even to the firstborn of the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of the animals.



The Census of Israel and Judah

[God Kills 70000 People]

1 Chronicles 21

11 So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the Lord: 'Choose for yourself, 12 either three years of famine, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking you, or else for three days the sword of the Lord—the plague in the land, with the angel of the Lord destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me." 13 And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the Lord, for His mercies are very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man." 14 So the Lord sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. 15 And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the Lord looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the Lord stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

King Og Defeated

[God Orders the Destruction of 60 Cities]

Deuteronomy 3

3 "So the Lord our God also delivered into our hands Og king of Bashan, with all his people, and we attacked him until he had no survivors remaining. 4 And we took all his cities at that time; there was not a city which we did not take from them: sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. 5 All these cities were fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, besides a great many rural towns. 6 And we utterly destroyed them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children of every city. 7 But all the livestock and the spoil of the cities we took as booty for ourselves.

Destroy the Amalekites

[God's Command to Kill the Amalekites]

Deuteronomy 25:17-19

17 "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you were coming out of Egypt, 18 how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God. 19 Therefore it shall be, when the Lord your God has given you rest from your enemies all around, in the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance, that you will blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. You shall not forget.

The Destruction of Jericho

[God Enables the Killing of all Living Creatures in Jericho]

Joshua 6

2 And the Lord said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

20 So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. 21 And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.



Of course there are so many other accounts of evil events either directly inflicted by or ordered by the Old Testament God. Additionally there are even more accounts of atrocities carried out by his chosen people, the Israelites, which God allowed and seemed to overlook.

2. The Law of the Old Testament God

An Eye for an Eye...

Exodus 21:23-25

23 But if any harm follows, then you shall give life for life,
24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,
25 burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.

Deuteronomy 19:21

21 Your eye shall not pity: life shall be for life, eye for
eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

Leviticus 24:20

20 fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; as he
has caused disfigurement of a man, so shall it be done to him.

The Law Concerning Servants (Slaves)

Exodus 21:1-11

1 "Now these are the judgments which you shall set before
them: 2 If you buy a Hebrew servant, he shall serve six years;
and in the seventh he shall go out free and pay nothing. 3 If
he comes in by himself, he shall go out by himself; if he
comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. 4 If
his master has given him a wife, and she has borne him sons or
daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's,
and he shall go out by himself. 5 But if the servant plainly
says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not
go out free,' 6 then his master shall bring him to the judges.
He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and
his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall
serve him forever.

[Selling Daughter as Sex Slave!]

7 "And if a man sells his daughter to be a female slave, she
shall not go out as the male slaves do. 8 If she does not
please her master, who has betrothed her to himself, then he
shall let her be redeemed. He shall have no right to sell her
to a foreign people, since he has dealt deceitfully with her.
9 And if he has betrothed her to his son, he shall deal with
her according to the custom of daughters. 10 If he takes
another wife, he shall not diminish her food, her clothing,
and her marriage rights. 11 And if he does not do these three
for her, then she shall go out free, without paying money.

The Law Concerning Violence

[The Death Penalty]

Exodus 21:12-21

12 "He who strikes a man so that he dies **shall surely be put to death.**

[And Concerning Acts Against Father or Mother... Death]

15 "And he who strikes his father or his mother **shall surely be put to death.**

17 "And he who curses his father or his mother **shall surely be put to death.**

[The Special Case of Slavery and Violence!]

20 "And if a man beats his male or female servant with a rod, so that he dies under his hand, he shall surely be punished. 21 Notwithstanding, if he remains alive a day or two, he shall not be punished; for he is his property.

Animal Control

Exodus 21:28

28 "If an ox gores a man or a woman to death, then **the ox shall surely be stoned**, and its flesh shall not be eaten; but the owner of the ox shall be acquitted.

The Penalty for Blasphemy

Leviticus 24:10-16

10 Now the son of an Israelite woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel; and this Israelite woman's son and a man of Israel fought each other in the camp. 11 And the Israelite woman's son blasphemed the name of the Lord and cursed; and so they brought him to Moses. (His mother's name was Shelomith the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan.) 12 Then they put him in custody, that the mind of the Lord might be shown to them.

13 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 14 "Take outside the camp him who has cursed; then let all who heard him lay their hands on his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

15 "Then you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin. 16 And whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall certainly stone him, the stranger as well as him who is born in the land. **When he blasphemes the name of the Lord, he shall be put to death.**

The Sabbath Law - Death Penalty

Exodus 31:12-17

12 And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 13 "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you. 14 You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. 15 Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the Lord. **Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.** 16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. 17 It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.'"

Exodus 35:1-3

35 Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, "These are the words which the Lord has commanded you to do: 2 Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to the Lord. **Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death.** 3 You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day."

Numbers 15:32-36

32 Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. 33 And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation. 34 They put him under guard, because it had not been explained what should be done to him.

35 Then the Lord said to Moses, **"The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."** 36 So, as the Lord commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones, and he died.