



Why Is The Bible So Violent?

1 Samuel 15:2,3(NIV): "This is what the Lord Almighty says: go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys."

Poetry, Paradox, Metaphor, Chiasm, Intertextuality, Repeating Words

Puzzle + Virtue = Mission

"You Christians look after a document containing enough dynamite to blow all civilization to pieces, turn the world upside down, and bring peace to a battle-torn planet. But you treat it as though it is nothing more than a piece of literature." Mahatma Gandhi

Deuteronomy 25:17-19(NIV): "Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. 18 When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and attacked all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God. 19 When the Lord your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!"

Genesis 27:41(Amp): "So, Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him; and Esau said in his heart, 'The days of mourning for my father are very near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.'"

"How good and pleasant it is when brothers *and sisters* live together in peace!"

Psalms 133:1(VOICE): Deuteronomy 25:6, 19(NIV): "...so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel... you shall blot out the name of Amalek."

Exodus 17:12-14(NIV): "When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.'"

Jacob & Esau

To Laban and back
Sells birthright
Sits down for a meal
Slave to Laban for 21 years
Laban chases
Set free and crosses a river
Meets and reconciles with Esau
The vulnerable are safe

Israel & Amalek

To Egypt and back
Sells birthright
Sits down for a meal
Slave to Egypt for 210 years
Pharaoh chases
Set free and crosses a river
Meets and goes to war with Amalek
The vulnerable are attacked

Deuteronomy 25:19(ESV): "...blot out the memory of Amalek."

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