



ZWTF

Sunday, July 21, 2013 Zapping-you Whenever Thoughts Flow

CNN does not know end from beginning

Stop watching the news. God kills, but does not murder.



This will be a hard newsletter. Please read to the end.

A difficult passage of Scripture is 1 Samuel 2:6. It reads: “The Lord killeth.” Many people gag on this and then eat lots of potato chips. Others drink copious amounts of alcohol. Others merely live lives of quiet desperation, that is, they watch television. God does a lot of things that end in “eth,” but how could this be one of them? He blesseth. He cometh, He goeth, He maketh alive.

But He *killeth*?

The trouble is that most people associate killing with black leather knife-people on the street. No. That’s murder. But didn’t God Himself give the sixth commandment, “Thou shalt not kill?” Then all killing is wrong and God breaks His own commandment.

A lot of people trip here.

But all killing is not wrong. And God never did say, “Thou shalt not kill.” He said, “Thou shalt not murder.” There’s a big difference.

The Hebrew word for “kill” is *harag*. It means “to slay.” But there’s another Hebrew word that means “murder.” This word is *ratsach*. Unfortunately, the *King James Version* and others have ignored the two different words and translated both with a single word: “kill.”

One whacked-out airline

Please realize the stupidity of this and the damage it has caused. What if, no matter where people wanted to go, there was an airline that sent everyone to Schenectady, New York? People would become enraged at the airline. You buy a ticket to Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Denver—doesn’t matter. Off you go to Schenectady. No one would stand for it, except maybe the Day’s Inn owner in Schenectady. People would moan and protest, or worse. But who moans and protests when the *King James Version* sends everyone to “kill” when there are two different Hebrew words toward which God wishes to direct us?

This careless translating has sabotaged your confidence in God because you have thought God breaks His own commandment. This is because you thought God said, “Thou shalt not kill.” But He didn’t. He said, “Thou shalt not murder.” Everyone flying the crappy airline complains because it’s easy to see you’ve been duped when you land in Schenectady instead of Los

Angeles. (“Hey. Where are the palm trees? Where is Brad Pitt?”) But nobody complains about the Bible rip-off because nobody knows about it. Nobody knows they’re getting robbed of revelation until someone points it out. Instead, they think God contradicts Himself.

Only one of these words means “kill,” and that’s *harag*. *Ratsach* means “murder.” *Ratsach* is a crime, while *harag* is not necessarily. The common denominator is “taking a life.” What dictates whether this is done legally or illegally is: motive.

Which word is used in the sixth commandment? *Ratsach*. The original Hebrew language of the Old Testament says, “Thou shalt not *ratsach*,” not “Thou shalt not *harag*.” The version I use, the *Concordant Version of the Old Testament*, distinguishes between these different Hebrew words (it’s a well-run and efficient airport) rightly translating Exodus 20:13 to read: “You shall not murder.”

So God does not break His own commandment. He takes life, but doesn’t murder. A good version will tell you that. God makes people dead when it’s time for them to die, and He does it legally. God kills, but He doesn’t commit a crime.

Bye-bye

What is so awful about dying in due time? Who wants to tramp through this earthly mire forever? I want to tramp somewhere forever, just not here. The dead are delivered from trouble. The dead don’t pay taxes and refuse to answer telephones. “Your car payment is late” are words unknown to our decomposing friends. Do you feel sorry for the dead? Don’t. If you



have to feel sorry for somebody, feel sorry for yourself. You have to pay taxes and answer telephones. And the statement, “Your car payment is late,” may well apply to you. Death is cessation of consciousness; it’s the ultimate nap. It’s like going to bed. Some days, I envy the dead. Most nights, I enjoy going to bed.

“Kill them all”

Several times in the Scriptures, the Lord commands Israel to kill a whole enemy. A harrowing example of this is 1 Samuel, chapter 15, when the Lord tells Saul, King of Israel (via the prophet Samuel), to kill the Amalekites, including men, women, and children.

Amalek, king of the Amalekites, was a jerk and had to go. But why kill the women? Women are lovely; no one likes to see them die; why did *they* have to go? Why kill the children? They didn’t do anything wrong; a lot of children are really cute. I could hate this chapter of Scripture. I could really question God here. And I sure used to. But again, the dead are delivered from trouble. Even women have troubles, I hear. Even kids have troubles, they tell me.

The Amalekites went all at once. It was quick. Even so, we don’t have to like it. If you’re so disposed, you can curse it. God will not strike you down. If you can’t complain to God, who can you complain to? So hell’s bells. Let God have it. He can handle it. God has heard all the words before, in several languages.

God does everything right

It would have been wrong for a man to order the innocent people of Amalek killed. But it was right for God to do it. It was right for God because He’s God. God can restore life, while people cannot. It was right because God’s motives are pure and good. He did not sin. He did not commit a crime or break His own commandment when He had the Amalekites killed. I know it is very difficult to believe the following verse in light of what happened to the Amalekites, but God is benign in all His works. That’s Psalm 145:17 from the *Concordant Version*: “Righteous is Yahweh in all His ways, and benign in all His works.” This is true only because God sees over the fence. We’re stuck looking at the posts, the boards, the gate, the pigeon crap. Unlike us, God sees ends as easily as beginnings.

That was Isaiah 46:10 I just slipped in on you there: *God declares the end from the beginning*. So God already sees the Amalekites' future, and He's pleased with it. He sees it because He has determined it. He's pleased with it because their end is salvation, not eternal torment. If eternal torment were true, God could never be pleased about the Amalekites. Only Christians are pleased with eternal torment; I've heard them blithely discussing (over delicious cups of coffee) who will go to hell.

Christians can at least be ambivalent about the Amalekites supposed fate because, frankly, they don't give a damn about them.

“Righteous is Yahweh in all His ways, and benign in all His works.”

As long as *they're* not burning in hell, what are a few million charred zombies among friends? God isn't this way. He created the Amalekites, and cares about them. This is why God isn't a Christian.

God knows that, down the road, the Amalekites will be part of the “all in all” He is destined to become (1 Corinthians 15:28). This great thing occurs through the work of His Son's cross. God loves the Amalekites. First He delivers them from a pain-wracked world, then saves them for eternity through the cross. They may not live during the kingdom on earth. They may not even live on the new earth, which comes after that. But they *do* live for eternity. Is this some kind of bad deal for the Amalekites? Tell me why. Tell me how.

God saw the Amalekites happy, even while the knives flashed. Us? We're stuck staring at the flashing knives. “Oh, my God. Knives!” we say. “Knives! Knives! Knives!”

We are stuck staring at the newspaper photo and can't get over it. Meanwhile, God is several thousand years ahead of us, basking in the outcome.

Why be stuck staring at newspaper photos? There are plenty of windows in Scripture. Plenty of windows there



open to a blue sky and sunny horizon. Colossians 1:20, for instance. Ephesians 1:10. Philippians 2:10. 1 Corinthians 15:28. 1 Timothy 4:10. Romans 5:19. For



some reason, we rarely gaze at these. Christians don't publish these happy verses. Why not? They don't understand how they can be true in light of the other passages upon which they base their heinous doctrines.

If God torments or annihilates for eternity, then the windows I just opened cannot be true. But it's the theological tangle of eternal torment that's a lie, not these verses. These verses I just listed will comfort you concerning the Amalekites. They will comfort you concerning your unbelieving parents, or your rebellious child who died that way.

God is the only One able to make alive again. Try as he may, man cannot undo death. But God can. It's easy for Him. So here's the rest of the story of 1 Samuel 2:6, which is also the second part of the verse:

“The Lord killeth, *and maketh alive*.”

God can kill because only He can make alive again—and will. Man can't do that.

The Amalekites are at rest. Some day, when they see why their deaths had to occur, they will thank God for His wisdom. None will be complaining that day. The Amalekites will not say, “God, you were unfair.” If they are eternally tormented, they could say that. They could say, “You killed us ... *ouch!* ... before we had a ... *yowee!* ... chance to ... *ungh!* ... believe.” But when the Amalekites see God's glory, they will laud Him. There will be judgments, yes. But the judgments will be rational, not rabid. The Amalekites will realize God had a plan, even in arranging their deaths.

Death is the cessation of trouble. Beyond this, it's the necessary prelude to resurrection. Only dead people can be resurrected. Only buried seeds bear fruit.

God's goal will justify His means. So wait for it. In the meantime, stop watching the news.

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Love to all, —*Martin*