

Qx9 – Policies in *Deuteronomy*

Dear: For this chapter, I'll try to slog through the remainder of the mud and guck in the first five “books” of the Bible, which Biblical scholars call the Pentateuch (because *penta* is Greek for ‘five’ and *teuchos* is Greek for “an implement or book”) and which the Jewish people call The Torah (which means “a teaching”).¹ The last of these five “books” is *Deuteronomy*, which means “second statement of laws” or “secondary laws” or “second numbers”. The word is derived from the Greek word *deuter* or *deutero* meaning ‘second’ (in turn from the Indo-European base word *deu* meaning ‘to move away’ or ‘distance’) and the Greek word *nomy* or *nomia* or *nomos* meaning ‘law’ (in turn from *nemein* meaning to distribute or govern, and which in turn is from the Indo-European base word *nem* meaning “to assign or arrange”, such as in the Latin word *numerus* as in ‘number’).

Most of the first two chapters of *Deuteronomy* (which I'll abbreviate to *Deut.*) is just a rehash of events. But at *Deut.* 2, 30, there's an interesting tidbit, showing that the clerics' god was up to his old tricks, as practiced on the Egyptians. In case it's unclear why the King of Heshbon refused to let the Israelites pass peacefully [besides his understandable alarm that the claimed ~3 million (but more likely, a few thousand!) people requested to pass through his land], the clerical authors of these books have Moses say:

But Sihon king of Heshbon refused to grant us passage; for the Lord your God has made him stubborn and obstinate, in order that he and his land might become subject to you...

So, Dear, according to the clerics, God played the same game as he did in Egypt, this time leading to the following massacre (*Deut.* 2, 33):

The Lord our God delivered him into our hands; we killed him with his sons and all his people. We captured all his cities at that time and put to death everyone in the cities, men, women, and dependants; we left no survivor.

Could anyone “worship” such a God? Wouldn't everyone join with me in trying to destroy such a God?!

¹ Incidentally, Dear, in case you wanted to know (☺), the OT has three parts, which in Judaism are called the Torah [the first five “books” (called by non-Jewish Biblical scholars the Pentateuch)], the Neviim [“the Prophets”, including the “books” entitled Joshua, Judges, Samual, etc., including Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah – and thus Jesus reportedly talked about “the Law (i.e., the laws of Moses as given in the Torah) and the Prophets”], and third, the Ketuvim (“Writings”), which include Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, etc.

In *Deut. 3* the horror story continues. At *Deut. 3, 3* the Hebrew terrorists bragged:

We slaughtered them [the Bashanites] and left no survivor... Thus we put to death all the men, women, and dependants... All the cattle and the spoil from the cities we took as booty for ourselves.

Moses then reportedly praised his God as follows (*Deut. 3, 23*):

O Lord God, thou has begun to show to thy servant thy greatness and thy strong hand: what god is there in heaven or on earth who can match thy words and mighty deeds?

To which God answered (but the clerics omitted recording it):

“Shucks, ‘twernt nothin’. Among the gods, I’m not really that great – though I do have quite a reputation for butchery. It’s gotta be my favorite sport, doncha know. Now, if you wanna talk about gods who are great and have strong hands, well, there’s the god of science (called Data), the god of the arts (called Arty), the god of the humanities (I’ve forgotten her name), as well as many others. These gods never killed any people; fact is, they go around helping people; so you can see why I’m rather jealous of them. They call me a murderer. I don’t think that’s very nice of them – and maybe you see why I plan to butcher all of them – if only I could figure out a way to kill gods – it doesn’t seem fair that gods can’t be killed just because they’re immortal.”

Instead, at *Deut. 4, 10*, the clerics have their God repeat the quintessence of the policies by which the clerics will rule:

“Assemble the people before me; I [God] will make them hear my words and they shall learn to fear me all their lives on earth, and they shall teach their sons to do so.”

There it is in a nutshell, Dear: **rule by fear**. It’s the clerics’ extension of the law of the jungle: beyond “might makes right” is “rule by fear”. For promoting and practicing such a policy, may all clerics be consigned for eternity to the hell they concocted.

In Moses’ farewell address to the Israelites (*Deut. 4*), the clerics who wrote the speech changed the nature of the Israelites’ God. As I’ll try to show you later in this “excursion” **Qx** and in **Yx**, the clerical speechwriters (who wrote the speech almost a 1,000 years after Moses had died) had already

transformed the Israelites' original Mountain God, Yahweh (or Jehovah), into the universal god of the Persians (who in turn was perhaps originally concocted by Zoroaster). Thus, at *Deut. 4, 35*, Moses is alleged to make the statement that conflicts with descriptions of the Israelites' God both earlier and later in the OT:

You have had sure proof that the Lord is God; there is no other.

And just to make sure that there's no misunderstanding of this change, it's repeated at *Deut. 4, 39*:

This day, then, be sure and take to heart that the Lord is God in heaven above and on earth below; there is no other.

If that were so, then why would the god be "jealous" and say (in his first Commandment): "You shall have no other god to set against me"? And why would the Israelites' god repeat and reinforce these sentiments, many times, during the next 500-or-so years of Biblical "history"? As I'll try to show you later, Dear, the obvious answer to such questions (and many more) is that the Persian-dominated Jewish clerics bungled the job of modifying the Israelites' stories, rewriting history, promoting the Persian God.

Next, after repeating the Ten Commandments in *Deut. 5*, at *Deut 6, 4* Moses summarizes with one of the stupidest statements with which the world has ever been burdened (a statement later repeated by the clerics' Jesus):

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and strength.

A left-brain commandment of a right-brain emotion: the clerics might as well have commanded a certain grandchild to love vomiting.

And if the Israelites will simultaneously fear and love God (which would be a neat trick, if it could be done) and if they will obey the clerics, then what? Well that's explained at *Deut. 5, 11*. God will give them:

...a land of great and fine cities which you did not build, houses full of good things which you did not provide, rock-hewn cisterns which you did not hew, and vineyards and olive-groves which you did not plant.

Whereupon, little Ludwig what's-his-name, in the back row, sitting on his father's shoulders, spoke up:

“Hey there, Prince Mouse-says [that’s just the way he always pronounced ‘Moses’], ain’t that taking stuff that doesn’t belong to us? Ain’t that stealing? Didn’t you say that we weren’t supposed to steal? Don’t we have to pay the people who did all the work building their cities and stuff? What about justice?”

“No,” answered Moses [aka Prince Mouse-says], “It ain’t stealing when I say it ain’t stealing. And it’s perfect justice, because we’re the good people and they’re the bad people, because they have different customs. But we will give them something: we’ll give them the treat of having their heads chopped off. And I’ll give you the same treat if you don’t shut up and start to love vomiting with all your heart and soul and strength.”

“Oh, no,” coughed back Ludwig, “I’m vomiting, I’m vomiting!” – and he added in a murmur, too soft for Moses to hear – “and no matter what you say, Mouse-says, I ain’t gonna ever like it, or you, or your stupid god.”

Sorry, Dear, I get carried away. Returning again to *Deut.*, starting at 7, 2 the clerics have Moses combine their policies of racism, religious intolerance, and fiendishness:

...when the Lord your God delivers them [the people living peacefully on their land] into your power and you defeat them, you must put them to death. You must not make a treaty with them or spare them. You must not intermarry with them... Here is what you must do to them: pull down their altars, break their sacred pillars, hack down their sacred poles, and destroy their idols by fire, for you are a people holy to the Lord your God; the Lord your God chose you out all nations on earth to be his special possession.

Someone in the crowd yelled out “With a friend like God, who cares about enemies!” – and the crowd cheered, relishing the loot and slaughter. But in the back row, little Ludwig murmured some more: “With God makin’ so many enemies, how’s anybody gonna have any friends.”

At *Deut.* 7, 7, the fiendish clerics go on:

It was not because you were more numerous...that the Lord cared for you and chose you... it was because the Lord loved you and stood by his oath to your forefathers...

Someone in the crowd yelled “Our God keeps his word!” And the crowd cheered – but in the back row, little Ludwig muttered on:

“Why would a god make a promise to a lying, blackmailing, pimp like the slave-raping Abraham? Why would God like someone like that? Don’t we normally like people who are like us? Does that mean God’s a lying, blackmailing pimp of a slave rapist? Hmmm.

“And why reward someone for obeying rather than evaluating? Isn’t that a mistake? Isn’t that a sin? Shouldn’t even a god try to correct or make amends for his mistakes? Shouldn’t even a god re-evaluate his promises? What’s his hang-up about keeping his word? If we don’t change when we get new data, how is anyone gonna grow? Is this God like a little kid who never grew up?”

But Mouse-says never heard Ludwig, for at *Deut.* 7, 12 he adds:

If you listen to these laws and are careful to observe them, then the Lord your God will observe the sworn covenant he made with your forefathers and will keep faith with you... The Lord will take away all sickness from you... but will bring them upon all your enemies...

Someone in the crowd yelled “Sickness, destruction, and death to our enemies!” And although the crowd cheered again, little Ludwig said quietly “I think I know why this crowd has so many enemies.”

At *Deut.* 7, 20, the clerics provide more details about the forthcoming mayhem:

He [God] will... spread panic among them [those living peacefully on their land] until all who are left or have gone into hiding perish before you. Be in no dread of them, for the Lord your God is in your midst, a great and terrible god. [Lord knows he’s terrible.] He will drive out these nations before you little by little. You will not be able to exterminate them quickly [although, rest assured, God DOES want you to exterminate those people eventually], for fear the wild beasts become too numerous for you [and though God has no trouble exterminating people, he admits that he does have trouble exterminating those horrible wild beasties]... Their idols you shall destroy by fire; you must not covet [for yourselves] the silver and gold on them and take it for yourselves [you are to collect it all, smelt it down, and return it to us, your leaders, we high priests who speak for God]...

Someone in the crowd yelled “We’ll obey!” – but Ludwig wondered:

“What’s the chance that what the clerics really want is all that silver and gold? What’s the difference between us and a bunch of murdering thieves? What’s the difference between our laws and the Mafia’s? What’s the difference between the Mafia’s god-father and our father-god? Aren’t the clerics urging us to plunder rather than produce? How about if, instead of plundering and killing people, I study to become a scientist? Maybe I could write a book that would encourage people to live together in peace and prosperity. Maybe I could even write a symphony. Maybe I’ll call it *An Ode to Joy*.”

The crazy damnable clerics! They love words but can’t cope with logic (*Deut. 8, 3*):

He [God] humbled you and made you hungry; then he fed you on manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known before, to teach you that man cannot live on bread alone but lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Someone in the crowd, pleased with the words, yelled “Praise be to God!”, but little Ludwig languished in the logic:

“Well, yes, man can’t live on bread alone. We also need water. A few vegetables, now and then, aren’t such a bad idea either – at least, so my mother says. But as for words, well, humans managed to live without them for many millions of years. And as for words from the mouth of the Lord, thanks anyway, but I’d sooner communicate with humans.”

One hopes the clerics craziness will soon be finished, but it continues (*Deut. 8, 17*):

Nor must you say to yourselves, “My own strength and energy have gained me the wealth,” but remember the Lord your God; it is he that gives you strength to become prosperous...

Someone in the crowd yelled “God is great!”, but little Ludwig just kept wondering:

“This is somebody’s idea of good? How could it be good to prosper by murdering and plundering? What’s the point? If we profit from plundering, we just set an example that people can profit from plundering. Then, some other group is sure to pick up on that lesson and profit from plundering us?”

“How about, instead, if we wander some more, find some uninhabited land, and there try to profit from producing? Suppose we prospered by using our own strength and energy to produce. Then, think of the example we’d set. And meanwhile, if God is so powerful, why doesn’t he stop all this plundering and get people to produce and to live in peace? Does he get his kicks from killing people? Is this his idea of sport?”

Sorry, Dear, but I’ve just about run out of ways to delay my screaming bloody murder. How could any human be so crazy – so horrible – as the clerics who wrote and still promote this horrible stuff. Just one concept, such as at *Deut. 9, 4*, should have consigned the Bible to the trash can of human mistakes:

When the Lord your God drives them [the inhabitants of their land] out before you, do not say to yourselves, “It is because of my own merit that the Lord has brought me in to occupy this land.” It is not because of your merit or your integrity that you are entering their land to occupy it; it is because of the wickedness of these nations [in which the people have the audacity to follow their own customs – and support a competing priesthood] that the Lord your God is driving them out before you, and to fulfill the promise which the Lord made to your [no-good] forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Dear, can you imagine the damage done to generation after generation of children by teaching them not only that people with other customs are bad but also that people should prosper not by their own merit and integrity but by obeying the priests? I wonder if any policy ever promoted has ever been so foul.

Next, Moses goes on to blur the distinction, even further, between him and God. We’ve been told that Moses won’t be allowed to enter “the promised land” (because he failed to follow God’s instructions, exactly, for how to get water from a rock), and yet, at *Deut. 11, 13*, Moses claims that he’ll be in control of the weather and therefore of agriculture in the new land:

If you pay heed to the commandments which I give you this day [that is, Moses is in the process of giving a rehash of at least some of the Commandments]..., then I will send you rain for your land in season... and I will provide pasture in the fields for your cattle.

It’s a wonder that the assembled crowd didn’t challenge his statement, for example, asking him if he was speaking for God, or as God, or maybe if he

planned to live on after he was dead (a concept not previously suggested in the OT), perhaps as one of God's helpers. But maybe the reason why apparently not one of the ~3 million people did challenge him was that only the ~3 thousand people in the first few rows heard him (because the PA system was down, doncha know), and besides, they had learned just to obey in silence (preferring to keep their heads attached to their torsos).

On the other hand, although Moses proposes that he'll be the good guy (providing needed rain), he also lets the people know that if they don't behave, then it'll not be Moses who zaps them but God (*Deut. 11, 16*):

Take care not to be led astray in your hearts nor to turn aside and serve other gods [i.e., other priests, cause he already told us there were no other gods!] and prostrate yourselves to them, or the Lord [not to mention the priests] will become angry with you: he [not me!] will shut up the skies and there will be no rain, your ground will not yield its harvest, and you will vanish the rich land which the Lord is giving you.

Thereby, one sees not only how the clerics connive to have exclusive rights for their con game (just as any Mafia group claims exclusive rights for its protection racket in its territory) but also the special feature of their protection racket: we'll protect you (e.g., by bringing rain) from the damage God will do (e.g., bringing drought).

But in his "pep talk" to his troops, Moses really reveals his incompetence – and reveals why the Israelites never did (and never will) realize Moses' promise that "every place where you set the soles of your feet shall be yours." Of course I'm glad that Moses was incompetent, for surely one would be insane to wish that the Israelites would be successful in slaughtering innocent people to gain possession of their land, but if, Dear, you can temporarily ignore Moses' evil (and the greed of the people), then please think about Moses' incompetence as a military leader: he sent his troops into battle without a tactical advantage (e.g., better armaments), only with a "pep talk". Thereby, his troops might be able (and were able) to slaughter civilians (and win battles against troops even more poorly prepared), but in the long run, he would lose the war. That is, the outcome was inevitable: eventually, more competent military leaders would defeat the Israelites and drive the survivors from the land they had stolen.

The cause of this incompetence, common among all clerics, is reliance on words rather than "works". Please think of it, Dear: Moses (or any cleric)

claiming to be a “savior” of the people with words, whereas a real “savior” would rely on works. For example, suppose Moses had said:

“You may think I was up on the mountain for forty days and forty nights dreaming about your imagined god, but actually, what I was working on was this new longbow and these amazing arrows. I want to show you what they can do, how you can make them for yourself, how to use them, and then I’m gonna show you a new military strategy that relies on each of the twelve divisions being protected by a company of archers with longbows.”

Or for that matter, if Moses was a true “savior”, then when he was talking with God, he might have obtained not a condensed version of some trivially obvious rules of behavior that people had known for tens of thousands of years, but a recipe for gun powder, details of how to implode uranium to produce an atomic bomb, how to construct photon torpedoes – or better by far, how to generate and sustain peace!

Instead, understandably and consistently, Moses ends his long pep talk with stupidity (*Deut. 11, 26*):

Understand that this day I offer you the choice of a blessing and a curse [i.e., either one set of words or another set of words, but in neither case do I offer you anything new that I’ve produced]. The blessing will come if you listen to the commandments of the Lord your God which I give you this day, and the curse if you do not listen to the commandments...

Can you imagine, Dear, what a wonderful outcome there could have been if, instead, Moses might have said something similar to the following.

“Look, I sent out two reconnaissance teams, one marching across the Jordan and the other sailing across the Mediterranean. They’re both back, now, and first let me summarize their reports; then, you people decide what to do. On the one hand, Canaan is already occupied, even crowded, with a productive peace-loving people – and quite able to defend themselves against any aggression we might initiate. On the other hand, excellent farmland is available all around the Mediterranean, especially on its northern shores, and especially in places that we might call Italy, France, and Spain. Further, as far as our scouts have been able to determine, there seems to be no limit to the land farther north. And most importantly, everywhere our scouts landed, the land was vacant.

“I therefore strongly recommend that we buy passage on some of the Phoenician boats, and build other boats ourselves, to colonize the new, fertile, and vacant lands farther west on the northern shores of the Mediterranean. But of course it’s up to you to decide; I’m no dictator; let’s put it to a vote.”

Anyway, Dear, I trust you get my point: in my view, Moses was incompetent both as a military and a political leader. He was another dream-dominated cleric (or just a dream, dreamt by the clerical authors of the OT).

As you’ll see later in the Bible, the clerics claim that the Israelites weren’t successful in fulfilling their greed, because they failed to obey the clerics, but in reality, this greed could never have been satisfied (assuming that the people had been stupid enough to adopt the clerics’ unstated premiss that greed is good) so long as incompetent clerics were in control, i.e., those who rely on words rather than works, who trust dreams rather than data, who pray rather than produce, who grovel to god rather than grapple with nature, and who hustle their fellow man rather than hustle themselves. Later, I’ll provide evidence to support that claim: in the past and still in the present, when clerics gain control of societies, they go backwards (witness Europe’s Dark Ages and now, Islam’s Dark Ages).

Moving on to a different topic, *Deut. 12* has got to be one of the most inane and insane statements ever written: in great and gory detail it describes how and where certain foods are to be eaten. How could anyone be so stupid as to “believe” that the creator of the universe cares about silly little dietary details while ignoring the Israelites’ slaughter of innocent people?! But of course such details are important to the clerics: not only do they want to eat the “choicest” foods but they don’t want competition from other clerics. Therefore: “You shall demolish all the sanctuaries where the nations whose place you are taking worship their gods...” At *Deut. 12, 21*, we find “As sacrifices for their gods they even burn their sons and their daughters.” I guess that the Israelites were supposed to know that the only proper way to sacrifice children to the gods was as Abraham planned; that is, to slit their children’s throats.

Forever the protectors of their own turf, the clerics demanded that not only all current competition but also that any future competition be eliminated (*Deut. 13, 1*):

* Go to other chapters *via*

When a prophet or dreamer [they're one and the same!] appears among you and offers you a sign or a portent and calls on you to follow other gods... even if the sign or portent should come true (!), do not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer... God is testing you through him to discover whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul... That prophet or that dreamer shall be put to death, for he has preached rebellion against the Lord... You must rid yourselves of this wickedness.

If that doesn't lock the believer into the clerics' con game, then nothing will: people were free to choose between following the ideas of Moses or being killed. How's that for freedom of choice? How's that for freedom of speech? How's that for freedom?!

Pity the poor people who couldn't see the fallacies and the potentially horrible consequences of this policy being advocated by the priests. In essence, the policy is: ignore additional data. Think of it Dear. With the above, the priests are saying to the people: "If someone interprets available data differently, proposes a new hypothesis and develops experiments to test predictions of that hypothesis, and finally provides you with new data that confirms the hypothesis, then kill that person!" The consequence for the clerics is the dominant characteristic of all priesthoods: they'll do anything to maintain the status quo, with them in control. And the consequence for the people, besides being locked into perpetual servitude to the priests, is to be locked into ignorance.

Please, Dear, if anyone (but anyone!) ever informs you that he has, not the latest, but "the last word" on any subject, then don't waste your time with him. Anyone who has closed the door to new knowledge has a closed mind, a cleric's mind. Disengage yourself from such a person as soon as it's convenient for you. As the Bible says, taking the quote out of context so that it will have the opposite meaning and then will contain some sense: "You must rid [yourself] of this wickedness."

And for the sheer horror of it, consider the hideous stuff that starts at *Deut. 13, 6*:

If your brother,... or your son or daughter, or the wife of your bosom, or your dearest friend should entice you secretly to a worship other gods... gods of the people round about you, near or far... then you shall not consent or listen. You shall have no pity on [them], you shall not spare [them] nor shield [them], you shall put [them] to death; your own hand shall be the first to be raised against [them], and then all the people

[like sheep] shall follow. You shall stone [them] to death... When you hear that miscreants have appeared in any of the cities... and have led its inhabitants astray by calling on them to serve other gods... you shall investigate the matter carefully. If... the report proves to be true... you shall put the inhabitants of that city to the sword...

If for no other reason, then for the above quotation, alone, the Bible should be branded as hideous. With this policy, religious bigotry is transformed from religious intolerance into religious fanaticism: our way is the best way; our way is the only way; other ways are bad; people who follow other ways don't deserve to live; kill them!

Please, Dear, think for a minute about a few of the millions of horrible consequences of this evil policy. Think of the millions of people, living peacefully on their land, that the OT describes as being slaughtered by the Israelites. Think of why the Gnostics' Jesus was stoned to death. Think of the Dark Ages, when the Christian clerics put out the lights of tolerance and understanding throughout Europe and tortured and murdered those who had the courage to think for themselves. Think of the same that occurred under the butcher Muhammad and his mad followers. Think of the horrors of the Crusades, when Christians murdered Muslims who murdered Christians. Think of how many Jews were murdered by Hitler's machine. Think of the current murders in Israel, Iran, India, Indonesian, and Ireland, to mention only a few nations. Think of the similar madness, murdering apostates, occurring today in most Muslim nations. How can there be any hope for humanity so long as such clerics are among us?

Dear, try not to be arrogant. I know that a certain grandfather keeps telling you that you're special, but realize that sometimes he's somewhat opinionated and maybe a little prejudiced. You're unique, but similar to all people, you're just struggling to achieve your trio of survival goals (of yourself, your family, and your values). And therefore, should anyone try to convince you that you're a member of a "special people", for example quoting *Deut. 14, 1*, "You are a people holy to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you out of all people on earth to be his special possession", then perhaps you'd do your old grandfather a favor and destroy such stupidity by once again saying: "Show me the data!" In turn, that will give me more data to support my opinionated conclusion that you're special!

And what data, you might wonder, supports Moses' claim that the Israelites are special? At *Deut. 15, 6*, the prophet Moses provides a prediction that can

be tested: “You [Israelites] will rule many nations, but they will not rule you.” After more than 3,000 years, shouldn’t the data convince the Jews that their prophet, Moses, was a fake? How could any sane human continue to believe the nonsense that pollutes essentially every page of the Bible? Oh, sorry, there’s that premiss, again, dealing with sanity.

Deut. 17, 14 contains another of Moses’ falsified prophecies:

When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you... and then say “Let us appoint over us a king...”, you shall appoint as king the man who the Lord your God [aka the priests] will choose... He shall not acquire many horses... He shall not acquire many wives... nor shall he acquire great quantities of silver and gold for himself...

As you’ll read later in the Bible, King Solomon, for example, “acquired” 700 wives (and 300 sex slaves or “concubines) – but maybe the clerical lawyers find weasel room in the word “many”: maybe that number isn’t “many”!

And Lord knows, the clerics love weasel words; e.g., at *Deut. 18, 14*:

These nations whose place you are taking [by killing the people] listen to soothsayers and augurs, but the Lord your God does not permit you to do this. The Lord your God will raise up a prophet from among you like myself, and you shall listen to him.

Yet, just exactly what IS a prophet? Well, he’s sorta like a augur or soothsayer. Riiiiight.

And I’ll not even comment on the first clause of the sentence at *Deut. 19, 1*:

When the Lord your God exterminates the nations [i.e., the people] whose land he is giving you...

But I must admit to once again wondering why so many Jewish people still seem upset about Hitler’s attempt to *exterminate* the Jews. Why do they continue to produce so many movies, memorials, and museums dealing with “the Holocaust”? What an amazing bias there is in such activities. Why don’t they produce movies, memorials, museums dedicated to the people they exterminated? Maybe I’m missing something. After all, like Moses, Hitler just told his followers that they were the “chosen people” and that they could “exterminate” other people.

Apparently the important point is: Who exterminated whom? Moses message, apparently, is that people who think for themselves and think that the Israelite God is a figment of their imaginations should be exterminated, whereas “the chosen people”, the people who follow their soothsayers like sheep, are special. Gosh, who would have ever thought...

And then there’s the astounding stupidity of “the duty of vengeance” proclaimed by Moses at *Deut. 19, 5* and still practiced in much of Islam:

...for instance, the man who goes into a [forest] with his mate to fell trees, and when cutting a tree, he relaxes his grip on the axe, the head glances off the tree, hits the other man, and kills him... [The] dead man’s next-of-kin... had the duty of vengeance.

Later in the Bible, the clerical authors borrowed some wisdom from other cultures and modified this bit of stupidity attributed to Moses, writing that vengeance belongs to God (e.g., see *Psalms 94, 1*), but, Dear, be careful of people who consider Moses (or Muhammad) to be a spokesman for God. Such people can say: “Vengeance belongs to God – but Moses (or Muhammad) told me that it’s my duty to execute this vengeance.”

Starting at *Deut. 20, 10*, the clerical authors have Moses repeat his unbelievable horrible policies:

When you advance on a city to attack it, make an offer of peace. If the city accepts the offer and opens its gates to you, then all the people in it shall be put to forced labor and shall serve you [i.e., Policy #1: peace for those unwilling to fight shall mean slavery for them]. If it does not make peace with you but offers battle, you shall besiege it... You shall put all males to the sword, but may take the women, the dependants, and the cattle for yourselves, and plunder everything in the city. You may enjoy the use of the spoil of your enemies... [i.e., Policy #2: if the people don’t accept slavery, kill all the men and “enjoy” the rest of your “spoil”]... That is what you shall do to cities at a great distance, as opposed to those which belong to nations near at hand. In the cities of these nations... you shall not leave any creature alive. You shall annihilate them... [i.e., for nearby cities, then Policies #1 & #2 are superseded by Policy #3: just annihilate every living thing. Don’t let even a pussy cat or a pet dog or a pretty baby escape slaughter, but...] do not destroy its trees...

And some stupid Jews and Christians wonder where Muhammad got his horrible policies!! But surely everyone is pleased that Moses had the Israelites spare the trees. You see, Dear, maybe Moses wasn’t such a maniac; maybe he saw that, eventually, greenhouse gases would cause

people problems. Maybe... but then, maybe not: maybe it's best just to describe Moses as a maniac – and Muhammad's and Hitler's role model.

Otherwise, how else should one describe Moses when in the first paragraph of *Deut. 21* he explains what the people are to do if they find the corpse of someone who was murdered? Measure the distances to surrounding towns to find which is nearest? Have the elders of that town kill a special heifer in a ravine with a steady stream and then proclaim, in effect, “sure enough we didn't do the dirty deed”? And that's the end of it? Nothing more? Did Moses mumble the rest of the policy and the clerics missed it? This mumbo-jumbo has been stated and repeated, written and rewritten for ~2500 years? Can anyone present a reasonable argument against the proposal that all clerics are crazy?

But at least Moses didn't mumble or mince words when he described what to do with a disobedient son (*Deut. 21, 21*):

...all the men of the town shall stone him to death, and you will thereby rid yourselves of this wickedness. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

And we all know how important it is that all Israelites be afraid – of the clerics.

Further, for later reference for the Gnostics' but not the clerics' Jesus, we have Commandment-who-knows-what-number from Moses (*Deut. 21, 22*):

When a man is convicted of a capital offence and is put to death [of course by stoning], you shall hang him on a gibbet; but his body shall not remain on the gibbet overnight; you shall bury it on the same day, for a hanged man is offensive in the sight of the God.

Mind you, God doesn't mind if you go out and murder men, women, children – in fact he encourages you to do so, if they're not the special, chosen people – but don't leave any bodies hanging around. They're offensive in his sight, and you'd better believe that it's not a good idea to offend the Lord your God.

Then, starting at *Deut. 22, 1*, there's a really important list of additional commandments:

- If you find something that someone unknown lost, then grab it and hang on to it: “you may not ignore it.”
- If you find an Israelite’s ass lying on the road, then “do not ignore it; you must help him to lift it...” [Yes, Dear, I know that I abbreviated that quotation somewhat, but somebody’s gotta be kidding!]
- “No woman shall wear an article of man’s clothing [even if she’s freezing to death, she’s not to put on a man’s jacket], nor shall a man put on woman’s dress [and as for the unisex uniforms of later centuries, well] “these things are an abomination to the Lord...”
- “When you come across a bird’s nest by the road, in a tree, or on the ground, with fledglings or eggs in it and the mother-bird on the nest, do not take both mother and young. Let the mother-bird go free, and take only the young; then you will prosper and live long.” Mind you, in the case of humans, feel free to kill both the mother and her babies, but you’ve gotta be nice to the poor little mother birdie...
- “You shall not plough with an ox and an ass yoked together.” This is extremely important! This Commandment is binding on generation after generation, forever. For the Lord your God is a goddamn ass!
- “You shall make twisted tassels on the four corners of your cloaks which you wrap round you.” You see, recently I cornered the market on twisted tassels, and with a profit on each of 0.32 shekels, with 4 per cloak, and close to 3 million cloaks, then...
- And Israelite girls better not ride bicycles or horses, engage in any strenuous activities, or in anyway be abnormal, for if a future husband doesn’t find proof of their wife’s virginity, “the men of her town shall stone her to death.” Oh, such a wonderfully enlightened prophet is this man Moses. What would the world have done without him? What, indeed...
- For example, how many gagged women who were then raped would not have been stoned to death: “the girl because, although in the town, she did not cry for help.”

- Oh, by the way, the penalty for a man who rapes a young girl not pledged in marriage? Fifty pieces of silver, if you please, plus life-long marriage. And so you see how a young man, unable to gain a father's permission to marry his daughter, managed to turn Moses' madness to his advantage...
- "No man whose testicles have been crushed or whose organ has been severed shall become a member of the assembly of the Lord." And so there. That's that. What more need be said. Save perhaps: Praise the Lord that Moses is dead. Now, if we could only rid the world of his memory.
- "No descendant of an irregular union, even down to the tenth generation, shall become a member of the assembly of the Lord." Now, if only one could figure out what "an irregular union" was. Surely it couldn't mean marrying one's aunt, cause that would mean that Moses... Nah, it couldn't be. Could it?
- "No Ammonite or Moabite, even down to the tenth generation, shall become a member of the assembly of the Lord... because they did not meet you with food and water on your way out of Egypt..." And therefore, if your great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandfather forgot, then that means that the great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandson is guilty; so it obviously follows that... Moses is out of his maniacal mind.
- And then there's a beauty-of-a-commandment (it's gotta be at least #518) at *Deut.* 23, 9. I won't quote it exactly (this being a G-rated book, suitable for children, doncha know) but let me at least convey the essence: natural emissions from the human body are foul; don't let God see them "for fear that he should see something indecent and go with you no further"; on the other hand, murdering mothers and babies, that's perfectly okay; God will be with you during the slaughter – provided, of course, that you just murder people; don't hurt those poor little mother birdies!
- Further, never, Never, NEVER forget *Deut.* 25, 4: "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out corn." I mean, after all, this is a direct commandment from the ruler of the universe, HIMself.

- Unfortunately, because of *Deut. 25, 11*, for the past 2500-or-so years, people have been cutting off women's hands in total confusion: "When two men are fighting and the wife of one of them comes near to drag her husband clear of his opponent, if she puts out her hand and catches hold of the man's genitals, you shall cut off her hand and show her no mercy." The confusion was (and still is): whose genitals was she not allowed to touch?
- But ya gotta love *Deut. 25, 13*: "You shall not have unequal weights in your bag, one heavy, the other light." I suppose it's okay to have unequal weights in your bag, if one is light and the other heavy, and surely it's okay to have unequal weights in your bag if one isn't heavier than the other, but if one is heavy and the other light, then boy you'd better watch out...
- And, Dear, never forget the Amalekites (*Deut. 25, 18*). "...when you were faint and weary... [they] cut off your rear, which was lagging behind exhausted..." [Nowadays, I think it's called liposuction.] "You shall not fail to blot out the memory of the Amalekites from under heaven."

"Blot out the memory of the Amalekites!"

"The memory of who?"

"The Amalekites."

"And who were they again?"

"You remember, they cut off our rear when it was dragging."

"Oh yeah, the Amalekites. And whada we gotta do?"

"Blot out their memory."

"Memory of what?"

"The Amalekites."

"Oh – and who were they again?"

"You remember, they cut off our rear when it was dragging."

"Oh yeah, the Amalekites. And whada we gotta do?"

"Blot out their memory."

"Memory of what?"

...

For the fun of it, Dear, search on the internet for "who's on first base".

Meanwhile, in *Deut. 27*, Moses gives his final charge to the Israelites. They were to set up “great stones and plaster them over. You shall inscribe on them all the words of this law...” Unfortunately, during the next rainfall, the plaster was washed away and...

Then, in *Deut. 28*, Moses shows all the cards he holds: on the one hand, if the Israelites don't “fear the Lord your God”, then they'd better, because no end of horrors will result; and on the other hand, if the Israelites will “fear the Lord your God”, then

The Lord will set you up as his own holy people... Then all people on earth shall see that the Lord has named you as his very own, and they shall go in fear of you...

That is, Dear, the fundamental policy of the fool Moses (or actually, of the clerics who concocted this horror story) was not only to rule by fear but also to barter with fear. If the Israelites would only fear the clerics, then all people would fear the Israelites, and if the Israelites wouldn't fear the clerics, then they'd put the fear of the Lord in the Israelites.

Except of course for little Ludwig in the back row, who said:

“Daddy, because you and I aren't scared of those silly old clerics and their silly old imagined god, why don't we quit this crowd and become humans.”

And so they did.

Now, Dear, I wouldn't be surprised if you've become weary of reading all this junk – but no more weary than I have become of reviewing it and writing about it. I suggest that we both take a break. And when you are of a mind (and have the stomach) to take up this task again, then don't worry: I won't be encouraging you to read much more of this horrible junk contained in the Bible's Old Testament. Read as much as you can stomach, but I don't want you to become physically ill. Further, as I'll begin to show you in the next chapter, I don't intend to continue going through the OT in such excruciating detail as I've done for this chapter and previous chapters in this group – cause it's all a pack of lies, not worth the paper it's printed on. So now, Dear, take a break, try to purge your mind of the horridness you've read, don't worry that I plan to lead you through much more of this guck – and get some exercise!