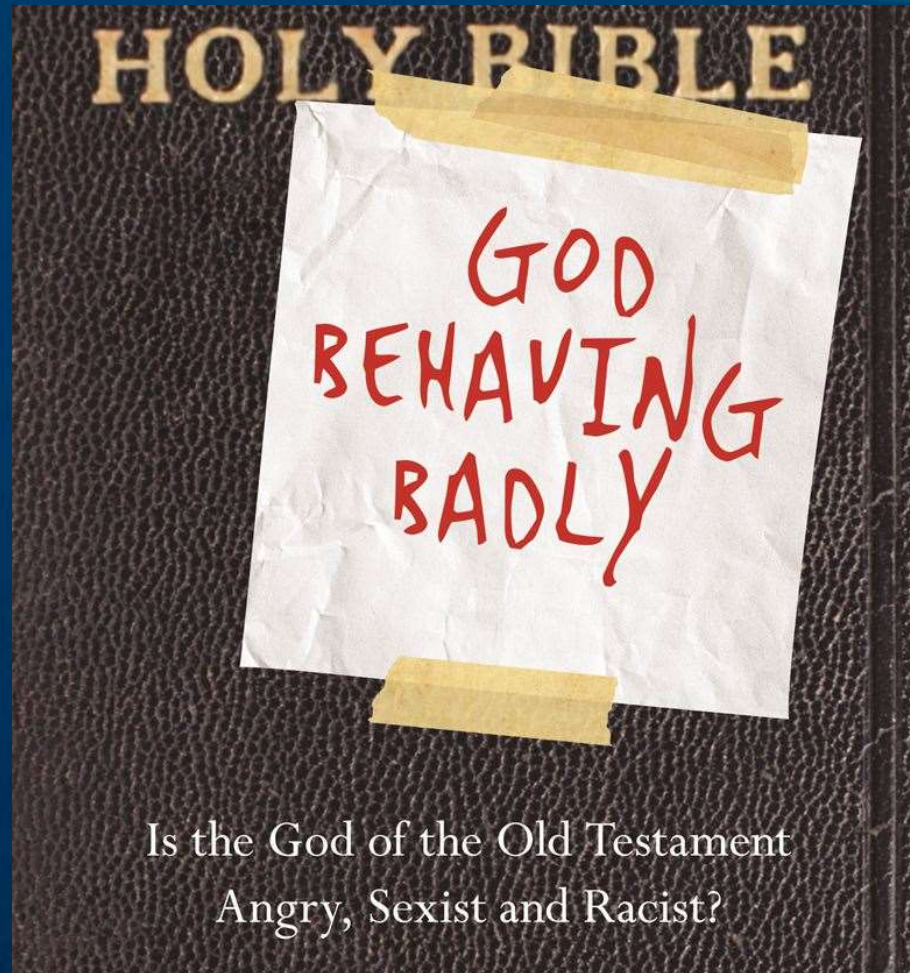


INTERVARSITY
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God Behaving Badly

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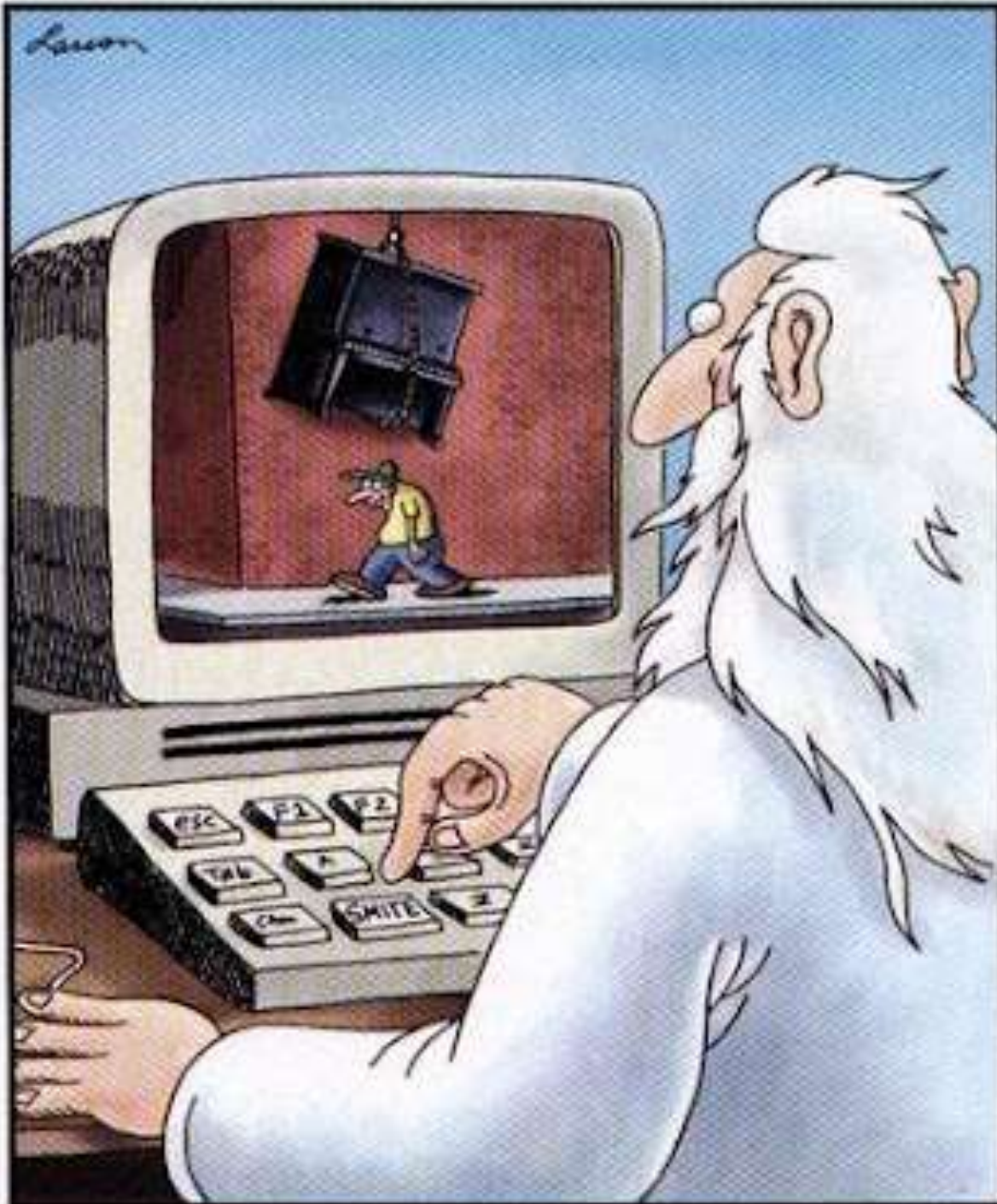
God Behaving Badly



Is the God of the Old Testament
Angry, Sexist and Racist?

The Far Side

“God at His
Computer”





Ghostbusters [Youtube link](#) ; [Saved link](#)

Links

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Next book: *Prostitutes and Polygamists: A
Look at Love, Old Testament Style*

Christianity Today: “David was a Rapist,
Abraham was a Sex Trafficker”

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A Look at Love, Old Testament Style

PROSTITUTES AND POLYGAMISTS



How to tackle tough texts?

- 1) Don't avoid tough texts.
- 2) State the problem as problematically as possible.
- 3) Examine the language.
- 4) Understand the context, both ancient and biblical.
- 5) Discuss tough texts with others.
- 6) Summarize main points and acknowledge uncertainty.



Elisha,
the boys and
the bears
(2 Kings
2:19-25).
See *GBB*,
pages 95-99.

SHE BEARS

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE THREAT OF EVISCERATION
TO KEEP REBELLIOUS YOUTH GROUP KIDS IN LINE

Would you worship a god that kills children just for calling a man bald? Well, that story is actually in the Christian Holy Bible!

II Kings 2:23-25 (KJV). Reads:

"And he (Elisha) went up from thence unto Bethel: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head. [23] And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them. [24] And he went from thence to mount Carmel, and from thence he returned to Samaria." [25]



Didn't hear this story in Sunday school now did we?

If you think the KJV is a horrible translation. View the NIV's Version below:

"From there Elisha went up to Bethel. As he was walking along the road, some youths came out of the town and jeered at him. 'Go on up, you baldhead!' they said. 'Go on up, you baldhead!' He turned around, looked at them and called down a curse on them in the name of the Lord. Then two bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths."

No matter what version, it's pretty horrible. Are either of these versions honest and accurate though? Let's look at the Hebrew.

Elisha, the boys, and the bears

2 Kings 2:19 ¶ Now the men of the city (Jericho) said to Elisha, "Behold, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees, but the **water** is bad, and the land is unfruitful." ²⁰ He said, "Bring me a new bowl, and put salt in it." So they brought it to him. ²¹ Then he went to the spring of **water** and threw salt in it and said, "**Thus says the LORD**, I have healed this **water**; from now on neither death nor miscarriage shall come from it." ²² So the **water** has been healed to this day, according to the word that Elisha spoke.

23 ¶ He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small **boys** (*ne'arim qetanim*) came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, "Go up, you **baldhead!** Go up, you **baldhead!**" ²⁴ And he turned around, and when he saw them, he cursed them in the name of the **LORD**. And two she-bears came out of the woods and tore forty-two of the **boys** (*yeladim*). ²⁵ From there he went on to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.

State the problem **problematically**.

How old were the boys?

qetanim: (Gen. 42:13).

ne'arim: (Gen. 14:24).

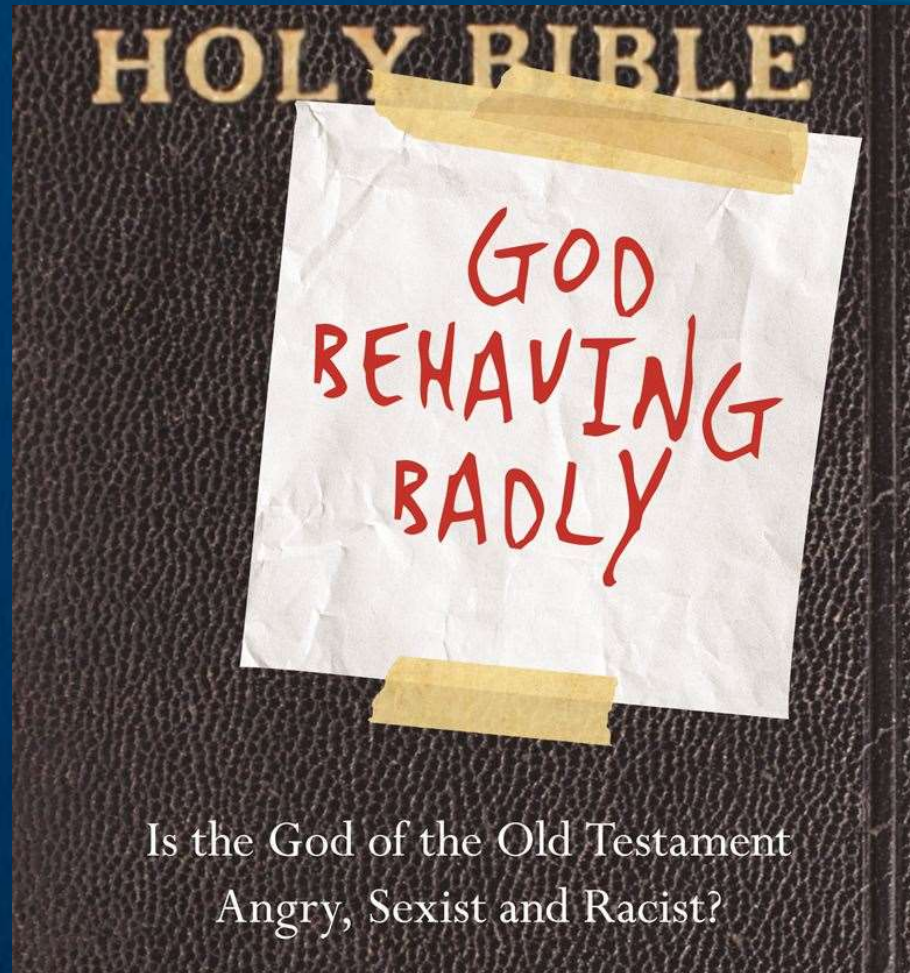
yeladim: (1 Kings 3:25; 12:8)

Elisha, the kings, and the horses

Context: Israel & Syria are at war. The Syrians are blinded, and led into Israel's capital, Samaria...

2 Kings 6:21 As soon as the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, "My father, shall I strike them down? Shall I strike them down?" ²² He answered, "You shall not strike them down. Would you strike down those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink and go to their master." ²³ So he prepared for them a great feast, and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. And the **Syrians** did not come again on raids into the land of Israel.

God Behaving Badly



HOLY BIBLE

GOD
BEHAVING
BADLY

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