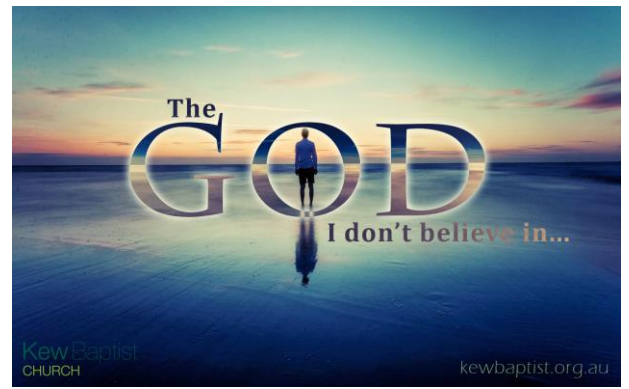


The Violent God



1. Have you ever had someone ask you about
 - a. Violence in the Old Testament?
 - b. Violence in the name of Jesus? (e.g. Crusades)

How did you respond?
2. Why is it important to distinguish violence God directs from violence that's just recorded in Old Testament narrative? (e.g. Judges 19:25-30)
3. How do you feel about God's justice in the Old Testament? (read Deut 20:16-18, 1 Samuel 15:1-3, Deut 9: 4-6, Deut 18:9-13)
4. How would you respond to someone who said Old Testament violence was
 - a. Ethnic cleansing (one tribe against another) (read 2 Kings 17:16-20, Deut 9:4-6)
 - b. Genocide (the complete destruction of a people group) (read Joshua 11:16-23, Joshua 23:6-13, 1 Samuel 15:7-8, 1 Samuel 30:1-2)
5. Can you see Grace in the Old Testament? (read Joshua 2:1-13, 6:22-25)
6. Can you see Grace in the story of the Gibeonites? (Joshua 9)
7. What passages in the New Testament speak of war and violence?
8. Can violence or war ever be justified today
 - a. At all? (1 Peter 2:13-14)
 - b. In Jesus' name? (Ephesians 6:10-13)
9. How is Jesus and Jesus' message a solution to violence in the world today?
10. How is God a God of justice and mercy
 - a. In the Old Testament?
 - b. In the New Testament? (Romans 3:25-26)
 - c. Today?