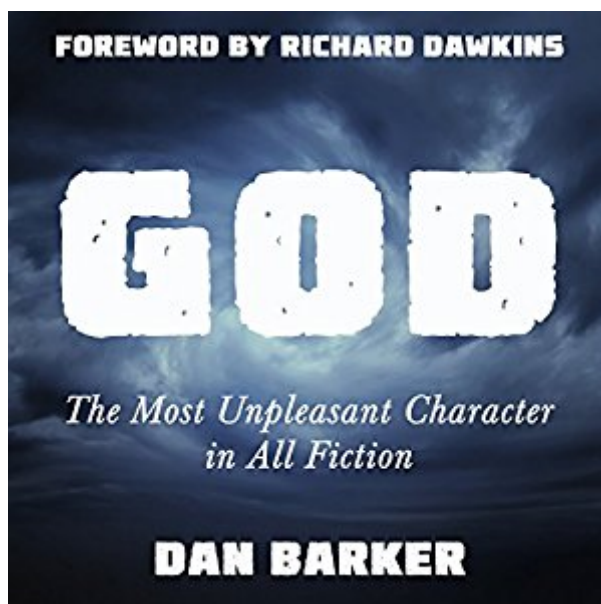


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# God: The Most Unpleasant Character In All Fiction



## Synopsis

What words come to mind when we think of God? Merciful? Just? Compassionate? In fact the Bible lays out God's primary qualities clearly: He's jealous, petty, unforgiving, bloodthirsty, vindictive - and worse! Originally conceived as a joint presentation between influential thinker and best-selling author Richard Dawkins and former evangelical preacher Dan Barker, this unique book provides an investigation into what may be the most unpleasant character in all fiction. Barker combs through both the Old and New Testaments (as well as 13 different editions of the "Good Book"), presenting powerful evidence for why Scripture shouldn't govern our everyday lives. This witty, well-researched book suggests that we should move past the Bible and clear a path to a kinder and more thoughtful world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I loved this book. Dan Barker really did his homework. Everything from the content, to the foreword, to the beautiful illustrations by Gustave Doré, make this book worth reading. In the foreword, Richard Dawkins explains that he got more flak for one particular sentence in the God Delusion than the rest of the book combined: "The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully." Apparently, Dawkins wanted to write a book defending the sentence but didn't know the bible well enough. Who better to take up the mantle than an ex-preacher? So Dan Barker did the job, with one chapter for

each description in that sentence. The result is a highly readable smackdown of biblical proportions. Barker actually goes further than Dawkins did. As Barker puts it: "Dawkins was too kind." He adds eight more adjectives each with a chapter and a chapter on whether Jesus is any better than the Old Testament tyrant. All in all, it would be difficult to argue that the biblical deity or his son has any redeeming qualities after reading Barker's thorough takedown.

Whenever someone starts to talk about the bible, whether it be a priest, deacon or any other lay person, you can be guaranteed it will always be about the feel good stories about love, salvation, forgiveness or anything else that makes one feel good and secure. Dan Barker exposes the bible from all angles, not the good, but the bad and the ugly. Quoting directly from the bible, be prepared to read how God is unjust, bloodthirsty, bully, angry, racist and just about anything else that will make one doubt their faith in this book. I'm sure the faithful will condemn this book, saying it has been misinterpreted or taken out of context, that we need some scholar to explain things and that they have all the answers. Unfortunately, they like to twist and turn things to fit their agenda and beliefs. I'm sure God would be smart enough to write a book that us mere mortals could understand in plain English, without any double talk or sleight of hand. With all of these questions concerning the Bible, along with discrepancies and contradictions, one has to conclude the Bible was written by man. God needs to send down a revised edition without the hand of man directing it. Would recommend the following for more reading. 1) Godless by Dan Barker 2) The Skeptic's Annotated Bible by Steve Wells 3) God's Problem by Bart Ehrman

Unbelievable. So glad all this didn't happen. But this fictional character did exist in the minds and hearts of people for so long. Way too long. The book is shock and awe at what the bible contains. Thank goodness for cherry picking and thank goodness for the enlightenment because otherwise we might still be all too familiar firsthand with this character of fiction.

Unquestionably THE most comprehensive analysis and expose of the obscenity that is the "good book" I have ever read. While I've read two versions of the bible, having the varied and astoundingly heinous acts that were provoked, ordered, or conducted by "God" all in one volume, classified by their respective moral failures, and in context - brings things into crystal clear perspective. This book is a resource I will be using in debate, or casual discourse with the devout. Should be read by anyone who is willing to face the facts / accept the truth and reality of what makes the bible one of

the most driving forces behind the growth of atheism / agnosticism. Well done Mr. Barker, and thank you.

A quick aside: "The" bible... I'm often asked if I've read "the" bible (yes... 3 versions) - and I always point out that there is no "the" about it; there is no original text to compare the multitude of versions with as a yardstick for accuracy. And these diverging opinions of it are not superficial - they're significant enough for the followers of each to want to murder one another over; and they do and have done so for time immemorial. It prompts me to repeat - "Only lies have different versions". But one thing all versions of the bible reveal in is the cruelty and madness of their claims - and this is what Dan Barker reminds us of. The good PR "the" bible has enjoyed for centuries (with those powerful PR tools; the lash, thumbscrew, rack, noose and pyre) always thrusts the happy-clappy-hippy-love parts to the fore... yes, but what about the madness too? If you were buying apples and every version of apples in bags had a few nice rosy ones packed in with bruised, rotting, worm infested ones - would you think you're getting a good deal? If "yes" - then perhaps you're just too used to getting your goods from low budget stores - your mind needs to travel more.

Great Reading! If you want to arm yourself to ward off the religious nuts when assailed by their attempts to 'ignorantize' you, then this book contains some great info. It's better than garlic for the vampires :-)

I first listened to this book on audible and I consistently found myself laughing out loud and saying to myself " I can't believe I used to think this God existed." Most Christian congregations cherry pick scriptures and teach about a God that THEY want to believe in. In other words, they desire God to be a certain way, so they try to find verses that will help them create that God. A loving, merciful, forgiving God who understands what your going through and is interested in helping you through your problems. That is absolutely not the God of the bible. I issue this challenge to all open minded Christians: put your faith to the test and read this book.

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