

God is NOT “nice”

“Unboxing” the God of the Bible - Part One

Prof. Tyler Williams
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God is NOT “nice”

God is NOT “nice”

- The “nice” God...

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 - is tolerant, inclusive, nonjudgmental

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- The “nice” God...
 - is tolerant, inclusive, nonjudgmental
 - seeks to meet our every desire
 - relates to us on our own terms
 - seeks our spiritual fulfilment

God is NOT “nice”

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- The “nice” God...

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- The “nice” God...
 - is harmless

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- The “nice” God...
 - is harmless
 - is ineffective

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- The “nice” God...
 - is harmless
 - is ineffective
 - is **NOT** the God found in the pages of the Bible, nor the God revealed in Christ Jesus

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- The Roots of our “nice” God:

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- The Roots of our “nice” God:
 - I. Our Therapeutic Culture

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- The Roots of our “nice” God:
 1. Our Therapeutic Culture
 2. Our Self-Centred Theology

I. Our Therapeutic Culture

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- Our Therapeutic Culture

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- Our Therapeutic Culture
 - Narcissistic

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- Our Therapeutic Culture
 - Narcissistic
 - Self-absorbed

I. Our Therapeutic Culture

- Our Therapeutic Culture
 - Narcissistic
 - Self-absorbed
 - The result of a loss of any meaningful end or goal for human life

2. Our **Self-Centred** Theology

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 - Focus on what God does for us, rather than how we fit into God's purposes

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- Our Self-Centred Theology
 - Focus on what God does for us, rather than how we fit into God's purposes
 - “It’s all about you **ME**, Jesus”!

The God of the Bible

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- Not “nice”, but...

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- Not “nice”, but...
- Holy, Other, Living, Just, Righteous, Loving, and Dangerous

The God of the Bible

- Not “nice”, but...
- Holy, Other, Living, Just, Righteous, Loving, and Dangerous
- All of this points to God’s Transcendence

The **Transcendent** God of the Bible

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- The Israelites at Sinai (Exod 19-20; esp. 20:18-21)

The **Transcendent** God of the Bible

- The Israelites at Sinai (Exod 19-20; esp. 20:18-21)
 - Ex. 20:18 When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, 19 and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.” 20 Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.” 21 Then the people stood at a distance, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

The Transcendent God of the Bible

The **Transcendent** God of the Bible

- Isaiah's Throne Vision (Isa 6)

The **Transcendent** God of the Bible

- Isaiah's Throne Vision (Isa 6)
 - In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. 2 Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory".... 5 And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

The Transcendent God of the Bible

The **Transcendent** God of the Bible

- Job's Audience with God (Job 38)

The **Transcendent** God of the Bible

- Job's Audience with God (Job 38)
 - Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: 2
“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? 3 Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. 4 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. 5 Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

The Immanent God of the Bible

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The **Immanent** God of the Bible

- Sinai - God uses Moses as a mediator and establishes a covenant with the people
- Isaiah - The seraphs purify Isaiah so that he may stay in God's holy presence and do his bidding
- Job - God actually responds to Job's complaints and restores his fortunes

The **Immanent** God of the Bible

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- Jesus Christ - God the Son

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The **Immanent** God of the Bible

- Jesus Christ - God the Son
 - Is the “true image of the invisible God”
 - Shows us what God is like and reunites us with God through his life, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension.

... Not a “tame” Lion



... Not a “tame” Lion

- C.S. Lewis,
Chronicles of Narnia



... Not a “tame” Lion

- C.S. Lewis,
Chronicles of Narnia
- Mr. Tumnus: [of Aslan]
“He’s not a tame lion.”



... Not a “tame” Lion

- C.S. Lewis,
Chronicles of Narnia
- Mr. Tumnus: [of Aslan]
“He’s not a tame lion.”
- Lucy Pevensie: “No... but
he is good.”



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- Conclusions

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 - We Serve an Awesome God!

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- Conclusions
 - We Serve an Awesome God!
 - Reverence and Awe are proper responses to God's transcendence