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Editor's Introduction

In the spring of 2008, Paul Copan, our beloved EPS president, stirred things up—first among our readers and then in the blogosphere—with his article titled, “Is Yahweh a Moral Monster? The New Atheists and Old Testament Ethics” (*Philosophia Christi*, vol. 10, no. 1). In reality, it was a balanced and thoughtful essay (with a terrific three-point conclusion, I might add) covering some very difficult terrain for those who take the OT texts seriously as divinely inspired documents. Prof. Copan, however, devoted a small section to Joshua’s deadly campaign against the Canaanites that stimulated a range of responses.

Although the subject matter is not the least bit delightful, we are delighted to provide a scholarly forum to wrestle with the disturbing issue that some have provocatively called “divine genocide.” We have in these pages philosophical, ethical, historical, and theological perspectives that give a good first look at many of the arguments and responses that have recently been surfacing.

Clearly this topic of OT ethics is capturing anew some sustained attention. If you are interested in this topic let me point you to a conference that has just been announced at the Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame. Two of our EPS leaders, Dr. Michael Rea and Dr. Michael Murray, helped to organize this gathering titled “My Ways Are Not Your Ways: The Character of the God of the Hebrew Bible,” featuring a top-flight group of participants (both theistic and nontheistic) from the world of philosophy, theology, and biblical studies. For more information see this Web site: www.nd.edu/~cprelig/conferences.

Don’t let this provocative collection of articles, though, distract you too much from the rest of the bounty in this issue. Thanks to submissions from thoughtful scholars around the world, we have been able to assemble yet another wonderful set of articles, notes, and reviews.

Also, please make plans to join us in New Orleans for our annual meeting on November 18–20. And continue to stay in touch by consulting our EPS Web site: www.epsociety.org.

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