

Ask Anything:

How do we reconcile the severe pictures of God in the Old Testament with Jesus?

John 14:6-11 If you have seen Me, you've seen the Father.

Two different OT perspectives on the same situation:

2nd Samuel 24:1 - The LORD causes David to conduct a census.

1st Chronicles 21:1 - Satan causes David to conduct a census.

Some of the most difficult OT Texts:

1 Samuel 15

Psalms 137:9

Joshua 24:19-20

A few of the OT texts pointing toward God's faithful kindness, steadfast love, and forgiveness:

Exodus 34:6-7

Numbers 14:18

Nehemiah 9:31

Psalms 86

Psalms 100

Psalms 103

Isaiah 49:15-16

Jeremiah 31:3-4

Hosea 11:4

Joel 2:13

Ellen White Quotes:

*The Bible is not given to us in grand superhuman language. Jesus, in order to reach man where he is, took humanity. The Bible must be given in the language of men. Everything that is human is imperfect. Different meanings are expressed by the same word; there is not one word for each distinct idea. The Bible was given for practical purposes.*

*The stamps of minds are different. All do not understand expressions and statements alike.*

*Some understand the statements of the Scriptures to suit their own particular minds and cases.*

*Prepossessions, prejudices, and passions have a strong influence to darken the understanding and confuse the mind even in reading the words of Holy Writ....*

*The Bible is written by inspired men, but it is not God's mode of thought and expression. It is that of humanity. God, as a writer, is not represented. Men will often say such an expression is not like God. But God has not put Himself in words, in logic, in rhetoric, on trial in the Bible. The writers of the Bible were God's penmen, not His pen. Look at the different writers.*

*It is not the words of the Bible that are inspired, but the men that were inspired. Inspiration acts not on the man's words or his expressions but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, is imbued with thoughts. But the words and thoughts receive the impress of the individual mind. The divine mind is diffused. The divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are the Word of God.*

- Manuscript 24, 1886

*The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the Word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme, of God's original purpose for the world, of the rise of the great controversy, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for supremacy, and should learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the one or the other of the two antagonistic motives; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found"*

- Education, 190