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## The value of human life and unborn life

*Genesis 1:26 (RSV) Then God said, ¶Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."*

*<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

*<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."*

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*Psalms 139:13 (RSV) For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*<sup>14</sup> I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works! Thou knowest me right well;*

*<sup>15</sup> my frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.*

*<sup>16</sup> Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance; in thy book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.*

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## Is God Barbaric or Crude?

Is God a Moral Monster?—part 5

May 6, 2018

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### — The ancient near east —

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*Ecclesiastes 8:11 Unless sentence against an evil deed is executed speedily, the hearts of the sons of men is fully set to do evil.*

### Example #1: The profligate and drunkard

*Deuteronomy 21:18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him,*

*<sup>19</sup> his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. <sup>20</sup> They shall say to the elders, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard."*

*<sup>21</sup> Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.*

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What do we know about the son?

*Deuteronomy 21:18 If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him,*

*Deuteronomy 21:20 They shall say to the elders, This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a profligate and a drunkard."*

*Deuteronomy 21:20 ...All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.*

### **Example #2: 40 lashes?**

*Deuteronomy 25:1 When men have a dispute, they are to take it to court and the judges will decide the case, acquitting the innocent and condemning the guilty.*

<sup>2</sup> *If the guilty man deserves to be beaten, the judge shall make him lie down and have him flogged in his presence with the number of lashes his crime deserves,*

<sup>3</sup> *but he must not give him more than forty lashes. If he is*

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*flogged more than that, your brother will be degraded in your eyes.*

### **Example #3: An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth**

*Exodus 21:23 But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, <sup>24</sup> eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, <sup>25</sup> burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.*

*Exodus 21:26 If a man hits a manservant or maidservant in the eye and destroys it, he must let the servant go free to compensate for the eye. <sup>27</sup> And if he knocks out the tooth of a manservant or maidservant, he must let the servant go free to compensate for the tooth.*

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