



CROSSROADS

God is Violent and Cruel



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The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all of fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filiacidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.

Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, pg. 31.



Deuteronomy
7:1-4 NLT

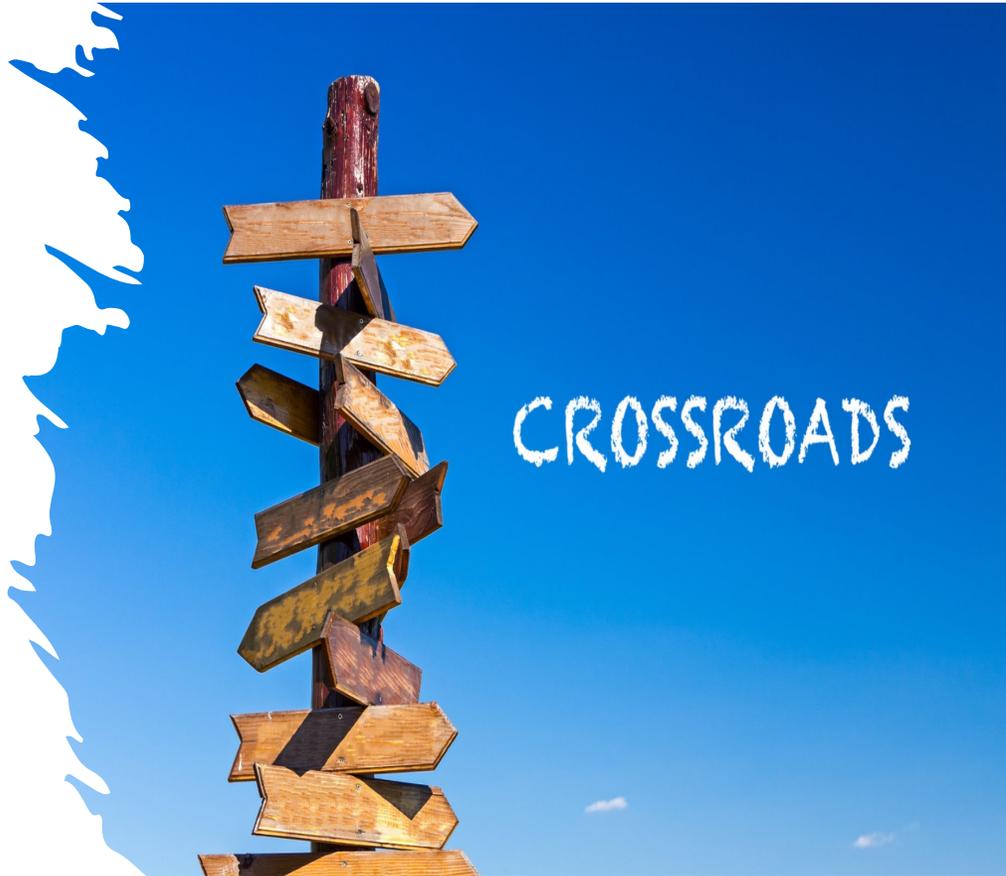


¹ “When the LORD your God brings you into the land you are about to enter and occupy, he will clear away many nations ahead of you: the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. These seven nations are greater and more numerous than you.

² When the LORD your God hands these nations over to you and you conquer them, you must completely destroy them. Make no treaties with them and show them no mercy. ³ You must not intermarry with them. Do not let your daughters and sons marry their sons and daughters, ⁴ for they will lead your children away from me to worship other gods. Then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and he will quickly destroy you.

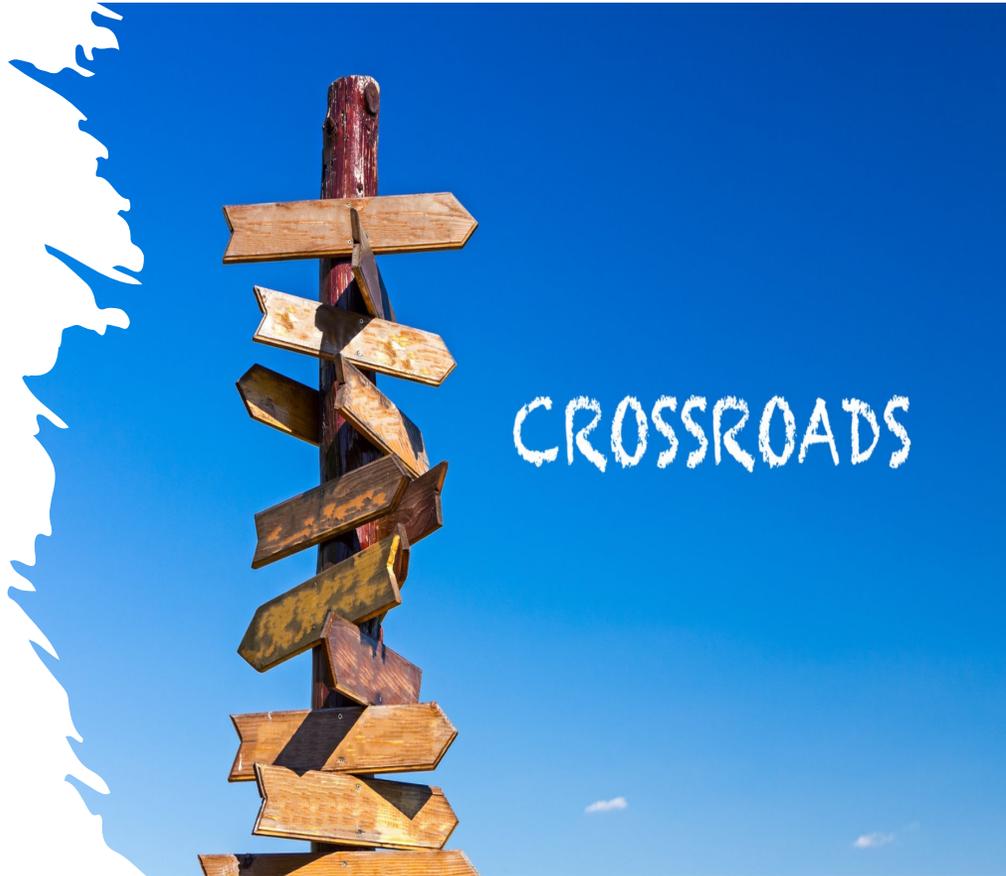


Dead Ends – How Not to Deal
with the Problem



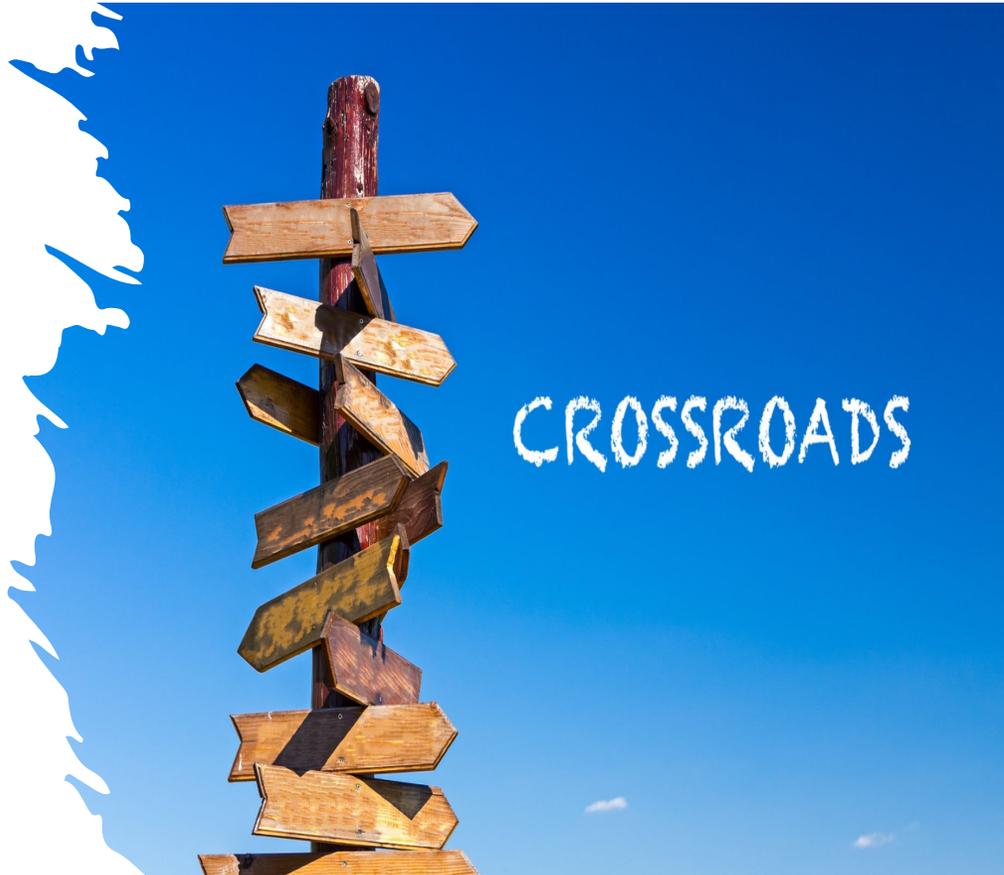
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2. The Old Testament God has unrelieved anger issues



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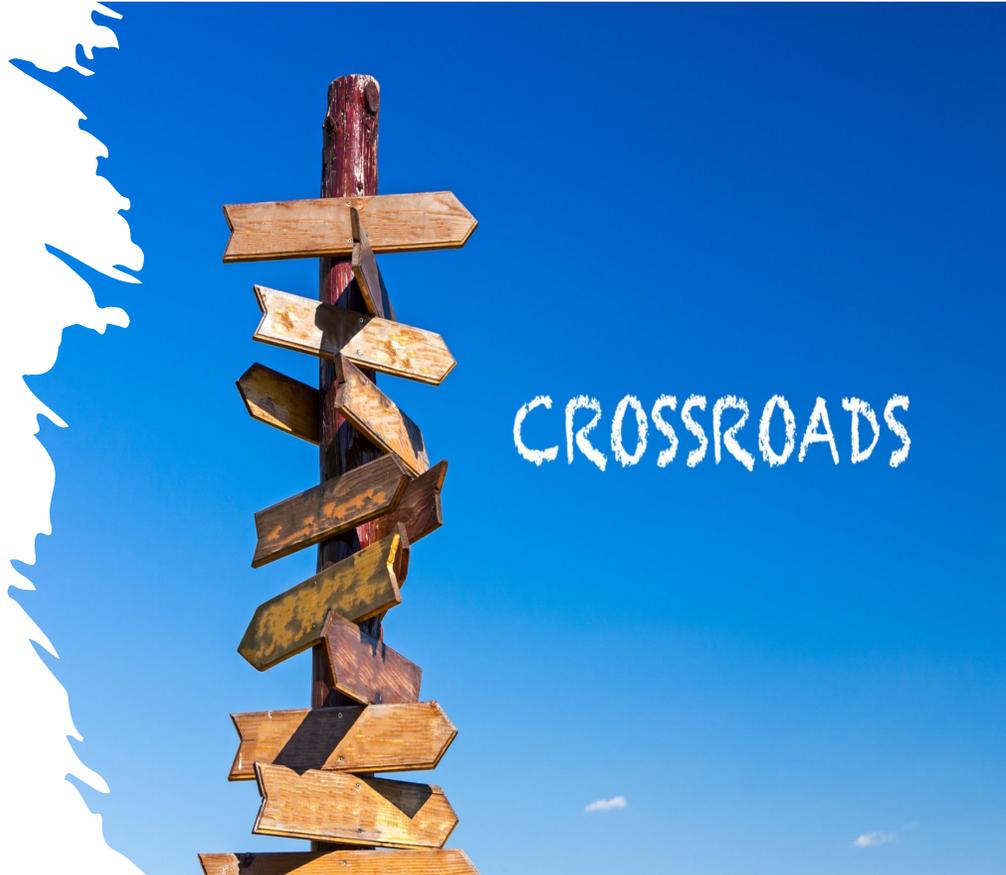
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2. The Old Testament God has unrelieved anger issues
3. The Israelites misunderstood God



Dead Ends – How Not to Deal with the Problem

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2. The Old Testament God has unrelieved anger issues
3. The Israelites misunderstood God
4. An allegory for spiritual warfare

Points to Ponder

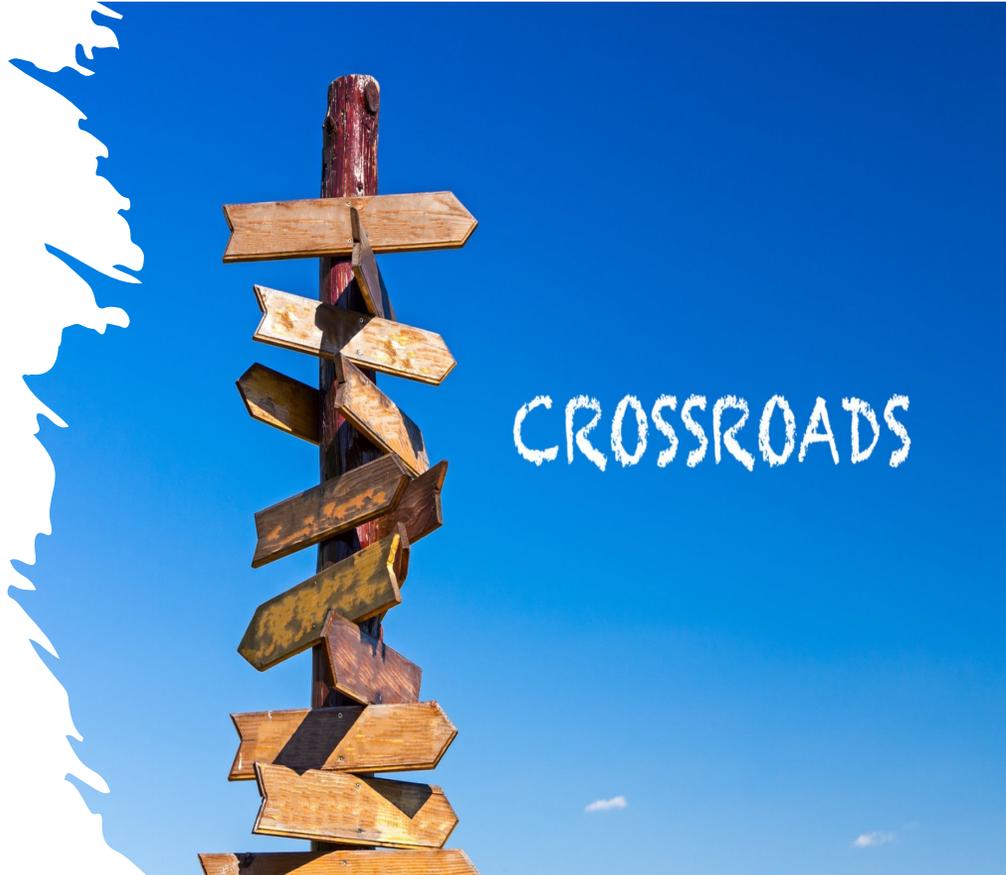


Points to Ponder



1. Evil and the justice of God

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2. Textual isolation leads to incomplete conclusions

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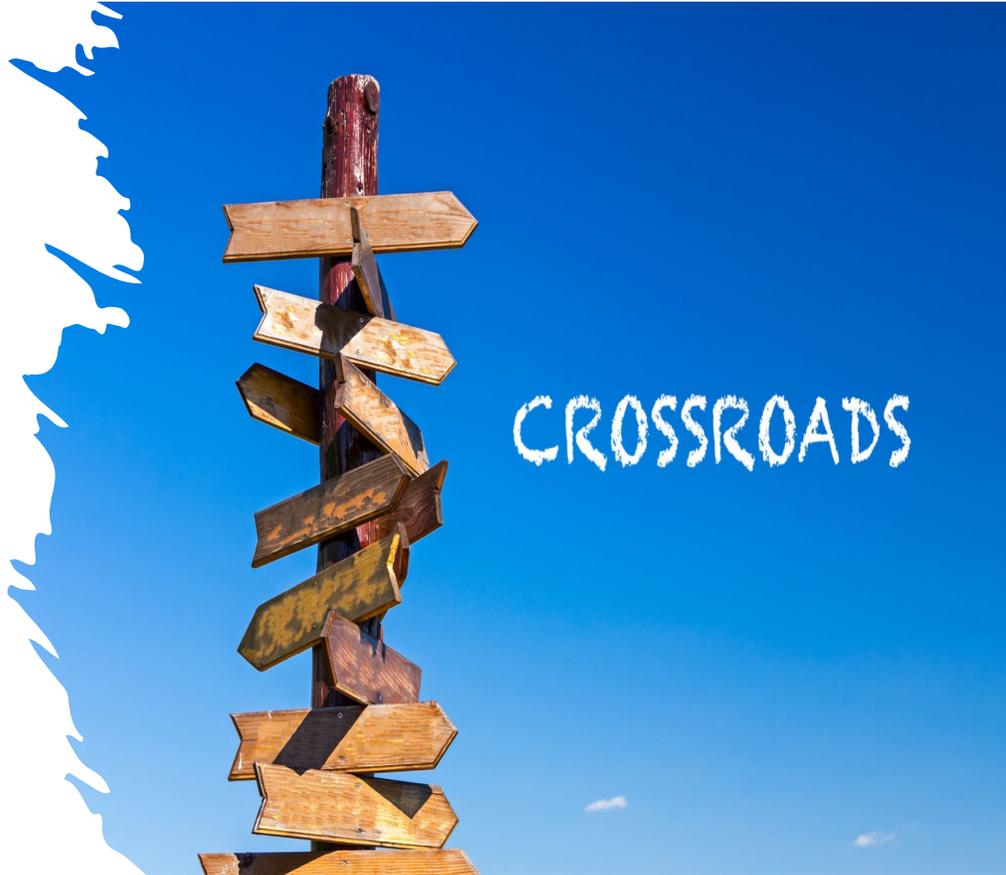
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1. Evil and the justice of God
2. Textual isolation leads to incomplete conclusions
3. Arrogant victories become fuel for future judgment
4. The nature of war and the “herem” principle
5. In our present world, we need to admit this is not easy to fully understand