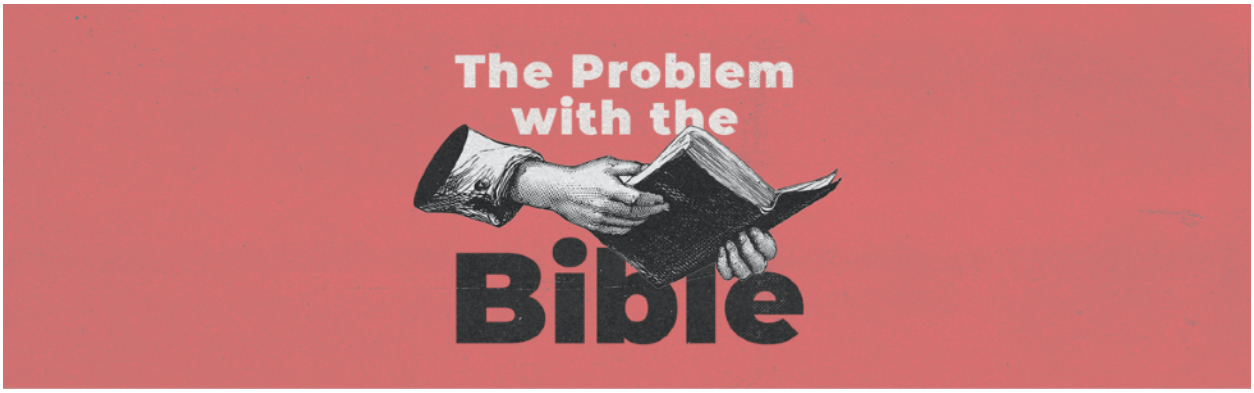

Part 2 – Is God Violent or Peaceful?
The closer you read the Bible, the clearer it is that the Bible has a lot of violence in it. Some of this is done by people and sometimes it comes from God. Jesus tells us to love our enemies and turn our cheek to violence, so how can we make sense of all the violence that there is?

Scripture: Genesis 22:9-14, 2 Kings 2:23-25, Matthew 26:47-54

Discussion Questions

1. Are there parts of the Bible that you have found to be difficult because of the violence? What are they and how have you tried to reconcile with them (if at all)?

2. Rob cautioned against making two gods out of the Old and New Testaments. Have you felt like there is a difference between God in the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament? In what way do you find them to be different, if so?

3. Read Ezekiel 18:32. What are your thoughts and feelings around Rob's statement that God is willing to punish individuals to protect the weak and preserve life?

Moving Forward
Considering how Jesus' statement that those who 'live by the sword will die by the sword', and how misconstrued the meaning of this statement is when looked at in isolation, what does this example mean to you in how you engage with the Bible?