

Isn't there a conflict between the God of the Old Testament, who is often portrayed as cruel, and the God of the New Testament, who seems very loving?"

Not at all. The God of the Old Testament is the very same loving God spoken of in the New Testament. The Old Testament says He is "gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness" (Psalm 145:8 NASB). God says in Malachi 3:6, "I am the LORD, I do not change."

The Old Testament does contain more stories of God's judgment against sinners than does the New Testament (including the flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah). Keep in mind, though, that the Old Testament covers about four thousand years of history, and the New Testament covers less than a hundred years.

The God spoken of in the New Testament is just as serious about sin as He was in the Old Testament. The New Testament tells of a time when God's judgment is going to come upon the whole earth in the last days (Matthew 24:21; 2 Peter 3:7; Revelation 6-18). Beyond that, the New Testament clearly talks about a time when unrepentant, unforgiven sinners will stand before God to be judged for their sins (Revelation 20:12-15).

Great Quote On the Bible:

"I have a fundamental belief in the Bible as the Word of God, written by men who were inspired. I study the Bible daily." *Sir Isaac Newton (1642—1727), physicist, mathematician, astronomer, inventor, philosopher, and alchemist. Quote cited at BlueLetterBible.org.*

Great Quote On Evolution:

"In grammar school they taught me that a frog turning into a prince was a fairy tale. In the university they taught me that a frog turning into a prince was a fact." *Ron Carlson, Christian apologist. Cited in Dr. Norman Geisler and Frank Turek, I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist (Crossway, 2004), p. 137.*