



## What if I struggle with all the violence in the scriptures?

**The scriptures tell** many violent stories. We may be shocked and troubled by the violence we read about, but we should remember a few things:

- God has commanded us to love one another, but many who reject Him and His commandments “are without affection, and they hate their own blood” (Moses 7:33).
- As a rule, the Lord condemns violence and the hatred and indifference that accompany it (see Genesis 6:11; Moses 7:33; Doctrine and Covenants 59:6).
- God’s ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts (see Isaiah 55:8–9). We trust that He is merciful, just, and all-wise and knows best how to achieve His purposes.
- Sometimes “the Lord slayeth the wicked to bring forth his righteous purposes” (1 Nephi 4:13).
- When an entire people, despite having been warned by prophets to repent, continues in sin until it is “ripe in iniquity” (1 Nephi 17:35), the Lord may send utter destruction upon them.
- God does not delight in the death of the wicked (see Ezekiel 18:32; 33:11).
- It is sometimes necessary to defend ourselves and our families, country, rights, and religion (see Alma 43:47; Doctrine and Covenants 98:33–38). **NE**

### **Tell Us What You Think:**

I’m afraid that if I confess a sin to the bishop, I might lose some of the privileges and respect I have. What should I do?

**Send your answer and photo by April 15, 2019.**

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*Responses may be edited for length or clarity.*