The Old Testament can seem strange, even disturbing, for many Christians. How do we make sense of texts that portray God as wrathful? Why does the OT contain so much violence? How do we relate to all of the strange laws and rituals? Is there a way to resolve all the contradictions? Drawing on biblical scholarship and pastoral insights, this course offers strategies for reading and responding to the Old Testament in ways that are both faithful and constructive. Emphasis will be placed on how this sacred text, despite its oddities, can inform Christian faith and practice today.

Week 1: What about all the contradictions?
   Recording | Slides

Week 2: What about divine wrath?
   Recording | Slides

Week 3: What about all the violence?
   Recording | Slides

Week 4: What about the treatment of women?
   Recording | Slides

Week 5: What about the non-Israelites?
   Recording | Slides
Dr. Ryan Bonfiglio joined the Candler faculty in 2018, and he currently serves as Assistant Professor of Old Testament and Director of The Candler Foundry. He previously taught at Columbia Theological Seminary and served as the John H. Stembler Scholar in Residence at the First Presbyterian Church (USA) of Atlanta. His research and teaching interests include ancient Near Eastern iconography, Israelite religion, biblical metaphors, the Pentateuch, and various topics in Old Testament theology. He enjoys teaching in local congregations and has a passion for helping to bring theological education to broader and more diverse public audiences.

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