Contents

Acknowledg	ments	ix
Prologue		xi
	: Thinking Rightly about God and the Problem old Testament	1
Part 1: Exan	nining the Problem of Disturbing Divine Behavior	
Chapter 1:	Problematic Portrayals of God	13
Chapter 2:	Problematic for Whom?	33
Chapter 3:	Ancient Approaches to Disturbing Divine Behavior	51
Chapter 4:	Defending God's Behavior in the Old Testament	67
Part 2: Unde	erstanding the Nature of Old Testament Narratives	
Chapter 5:	Asking the Historical Question: Did It Really Happen?	87
Chapter 6:	Concerns about Raising the Historical Question	111
Chapter 7:	The Functions of Old Testament Narrative	127
Chapter 8:	Israel's Theological Worldview	141
Part 3: Deve	eloping Responsible Readings of Troublesome Texts	
Chapter 9: and the	Distinguishing between the Textual God Actual God: The Amalekites, Genocide, and God	163
-	Evaluating Disturbing Divine Behavior by the us Reveals: Toward a Christocentric Hermeneutic	177

Chapter 11:	Using Problematic Passages Responsibly:	
Becoming	g Discerning Readers	203
Chapter 12:	Talking about Troubling Texts: Some Practical Suggestions	217
A.C. 1		225
Afterword		235
Appendix A:	Reexamining the Nonviolent God	237
Appendix B:	Inspiration and the Authority of Scripture	257
Notes		277
Bibliography		313
Index		333