

Transcript of BBC Radio 4's The Now Show

17 July 2009

...you writing into yourself to complain about your own outburst. **Laughter.** Oh! Ohhh! Heavens to Betsy, blast and fiddlesticks, whoops and thunderclaps, me blessed toe is all full of pain. *Gasps.* What did you do? Stubbed it on the Bleep Fin' doorframe. **Laughter.**

@ 10:14 seconds:

I have to admit I did swear a bit myself this week, I was reading the Daily Express newspaper, I say newspaper, that's overstating it a bit unless Princess Diana's mysteriously easy to explain death, is still news. **Laughter.** However, it is Daily and the express bit is accurate as well, as it's clearly written in a hurry. **Laughter.** Oh heavens to Betsy, blast and fiddle sticks whoops and thunder claps. Me blessed head's all full of pain. What did you do? I stubbed it on Anne Widdecombe's column. **Laughter** She was writing about Biblical literacy and how so few people are familiar with the Bible. She seems appalled at how few people are able to remember the 10 commandments, to which I say you're a Christian you remember them. I don't remember the offside rule, but I'm not a footballer so those rules don't really apply to me. **Laughter.** The Bible is full of great ideas and many are worth remembering, I agree with Anne Widdecombe on that. But Biblical literacy should not just be a PR job for God it should be inclusive, that's right kids, just 6 pages in God murders everyone and everything apart from Noah and the fish. **Laughter.** Harry the Fish did nothing wrong, but everything else had to die. **Slight Laughter.** Still we're getting our revenge on the fish now, aren't we? By hunting them to extinction. Take that God. **Laughter.** Of course in the flood it was the giraffe who came out worst of all being the tallest, he had to watch, terrified as God killed everything else Slight laughter knowing that even his gentle chewing face would eventually fill with water and he would lollop off this molt of coil. **Laughter** God always hated giraffes, he wrote the plans for them in imperial and then made them in metric, they were never meant to be that tall **Laughter.** That's why when they run, they look like idiots- it's God's revenge. **Slight laughter.** Anne quite rightly points out that there is much to admire and aspire to in her choice of Holy Book but there are also acts of wanton genocide, infanticide, fratricide, straight murder, rape, pedophilia, enslavement, brutality and frankly, a level of sexism that would make John McCririck go "woo steady, now give the little ladies a break". **Laughter.**

Just which bits of the Bible should we make our children live by? Eat not of the rock badger I've always thought was very solid advice, that's why my kids never have doner kebabs. **Laughter.** Ms. Widdecombe says everybody should follow the 10 Commandments. Well, yeah, sure, why not? Some of them are very good, on the other hand my neighbour does have a particularly sweet looking at Ox at the moment and I have to admit I've done a fair bit of coveting this

season. **Laughter.** These are supposed to be the 10 most important rules for mankind to follow and God spent the first 4 flattering himself and being jealous. Thou shall have no other gods before me; thou shall not worship false idols; thou shall not take my name in vain and thou shall keep the Sabbath day for me and me alone. Good grief! He's like a paranoid menopausal housewife with an adulterous husband. *Gasps* Don't you go looking at other gods, I know what you're like giving Shiva the glad eye. **Laughter.** Does my big holy bump look big in this? No! Don't make a graven image of it I can see in your eyes that I look dreadful. *Gasps* **Slight Laughter.** One day a week that is all I ask but oh no you have to keep your hospitals open don't you? and switch your blasphemous lights on. **Laughter.**

And in case you're wondering, you know cause people very often do, would you say all of that about Islam? Uhhh, Yes...Yes I would. **Chuckles.** Uh, weirdly enough the Daily Express didn't give equal space to someone promoting the idea that all of our children should be familiar with the Qur'an. I'm sure they'll get around to it in the name of balance in the end. But yes, I would say all of this about Islam including all of the details of the beheadings, the under-aged sex, the misogyny and the fact that Muhammad was illiterate. **Slight laughter.** It's alright don't be scared for me, I've done this before **Laughter.** Anne Widdecombe says if we live by the Bible, we might once more be a decent kind society with notions of fidelity, humility and forgiveness, and she says, "even Richard Dawkins might find it difficult to quarrel with that", I don't think so and she should know that. Richard Dawkins would quarrel with his own reflection if the mood took him. **Changes voice-** *who are you? I'm Richard Dawkins, oh really? Well you look very smug, well so do you.* **Laughter.** Anne Widdecombe recommends the parable of the Good Samaritan, hmmm, so a foreigner who no one trusted turning out to be a good bloke, who helps people...racial tolerance, ah the embracing of multiculturalism recommended by the Daily Express. **Laughter.** Then of course she goes on to mention the sharing out of food at the feeding of the 5,000 hmm share what you have and we'll all be better off, effective socialized, taxation endorsed by the Daily Express. **Laughter.** She then recommends the Sermon on the Mount, blessed be the poor, the meek and the peacemaker; so that's multiculturalism, pacifism, humility and socialism recommended by a Tory MP in the Daily Express, HA, HA, HA, no wonder I swore- Thank you. **Laughter/ Claps/ Whistles.** A road map towards reducing....