

= God Hates Us All =

God Hates Us All is the ninth studio album by American thrash metal band Slayer . Released on September 11 , 2001 , the album received positive critical reviews and entered the Billboard 200 at number 28 . It was recorded in three months at The Warehouse Studio in Canada , and includes the Grammy Award @-@ nominated " Disciple " . The album is the band 's last to feature drummer Paul Bostaph until their 2015 Repentless . Guitarist Kerry King wrote the majority of the lyrics , taking a different approach from earlier recordings by exploring topics such as religion , murder , revenge and self @-@ control .

= = Recording = =

Slayer began writing lyrics for a new album prior to their appearance at the 1999 Ozzfest . However , every three to four months the band was distracted by commitments to Ozzfest , and worldwide " Tattoo the Earth " tour with Slipknot . Guitarist Jeff Hanneman later admitted " that was the last break . Then we got our shit together . " The band 's longtime producer , Rick Rubin , was too busy to work with Slayer , and felt " burned out " ? unable to create intense music . Araya and King had similar feelings about Rubin , and King remarked he " wanted to work with someone into the heavy @-@ music scene , and Rubin 's not anymore . I wanted somebody who knows what 's hot , knows what 's selling , knows the new techniques , and will keep me on my toes . " Rubin recommended two producers , although the first producer was not going to work out personality @-@ wise according to Hanneman . The band gave second candidate , Matt Hyde , a trial on the song " Bloodline " , which appeared in the movie Dracula 2000 . The band was pleased with Hyde 's work on " Bloodline " and hired him to produce the entire album . " Bloodline " was also briefly used in the 2009 film Law Abiding Citizen . The song " Here Comes the Pain " had originally been recorded almost two years prior to the release of God Hates Us All , appearing on the compilation album WCW Mayhem : The Music in 1999 , and then used as the opening theme for WCW Thunder from February 16 , 2000 to the final episode on March 21 , 2001 .

God Hates Us All was to be recorded in a Hollywood studio ; however , the band relocated to Vancouver , British Columbia due to the availability of cheaper studio time . Hyde recommended a studio to the band ? The Warehouse Studio (owned by Bryan Adams) as he had previously worked there . The studio was altered to make it " feel like home " for Slayer ; as opposed to the setting for , in King 's words , the " lightweight Canadian pop singer " . This consisted of adding incense burners , candles , dimmed lights and pornography on the walls . Two banner flags of two middle fingers were also hung up . Vocalist Tom Araya says " that was basically the attitude of Slayer in the studio . We had a red devil head on one of the speakers . We had a skull on another . That 's the kind of shit we put up . Spooky stuff that makes you feel at home . "

Hyde used the digital audio workstation Pro Tools during the engineering , production , and audio mixing stages of the album . Slayer members wanted to keep the use of computer effects to a minimum , only to include a small amount of delay and distortion . As with previous recordings , the drum tracks were recorded first . Drummer Paul Bostaph follows a simple rule suggested by Rubin when in the studio : " The perfect take is the one that felt like it was going to fall apart but never did . " Seven @-@ string guitars were used on the tracks " Warzone " and " Here Comes the Pain , " the first time Slayer had done so . King was at the B.C. Rich guitar company (manufacturer of his signature model , the KKV) and decided to borrow a seven string guitar . After writing one song , King ordered a seven string as he thought " there 's no point having one tuning for just one song , " so he wrote another , going on to comment " you don 't have to be good to make up a seven @-@ string riff . " The album features two songs on seven string guitars , four songs with guitars tuned to Drop @-@ B and all other songs in C # Standard .

= = Lyrical themes = =

God Hates Us All explores such themes as religion , murder , revenge , and self @-@ control . King

wrote a majority of the lyrics , which he based on " street " subjects which everyone could relate to , rather than " Satan this , " " Satan that , " and " the usual Dungeons & Dragons shit " from the band 's previous records . King told Guitar World :

I definitely wanted to put more realism in it , more depth . God Hates Us All isn 't an anti @-@ Christian line as much as it 's an idea I think a lot of people can relate to on a daily basis . One day you 're living your life , and then you 're hit by a car or your dog dies , so you feel like , " God really hates me today . "

The song " Threshold " is about reaching one 's limit with a person in a situation where one is about to break ? and are about to blow up as they get " under your skin " , while " Cast Down " features a fallen Angel who falls into drugs . " God Send Death " and " Deviance " take up the idea of killing people for pleasure . Both songs were written by Hanneman . Having read several books on serial killers , Hanneman came to the conclusion he could only kill someone if they really " pissed him off " , and decided he was unable to kill someone he did not know just for power . He later admitted he was trying to get into that person 's mind ; " why do they get off on it ? Without being angry , just killing for the sake of killing and getting off on it . I just wanted to get into that mindset . "

While other members went to local pubs , Araya spent his free hours reading factual books regarding serial killers , including Gordon Burn 's Happy Like Murderers : The Story of Fred and Rosemary West . Araya was seeking inspiration , and aimed to sound convincing while singing the lyrics , avoiding himself to sound like a gimmick . Araya sang the lyrics more " over @-@ the @-@ top " than done on previous albums , as King 's writing style is more " aggro . " This resulted in Kerrang ! reviewer Jason Arnopp describing the album 's lyrics as " so packed with foul and abusive language that it sounds as if D @-@ 12 and the Sopranos family were going head @-@ to @-@ head in a celebrity swearathon . "

= = Cover art and album title = =

God Hates Us All was originally intended to be named Soundtrack to the Apocalypse . However , Araya suggested that the title would be better used for a box set , which the band released in 2003 . The phrase God Hates Us All originates from the song " Disciple " , during which the line is repeated over the chorus . The lyrics are in reference to God 's allowance of acts such as suicide and terrorism , while seemingly doing nothing to prevent them (see problem of evil) . A member of the heavy metal band Pantera suggested using " God Hates Us All " for a shirt design after King played the song to the band . King agreed , although he thought the phrase would have more impact as the album title .

The original album cover depicts a Bible spiked with nails placed in a pentagram star shape , covered in blood with the word " Slayer " burnt across it . The liner notes intersperse the lyrics between passages from the biblical book of Job , partly crossed out with a black marker . The idea was suggested by the band 's record company , although King wanted more time to develop a better cover . King 's concept for the cover was to show nails in the shape of a pentagram , and have them miss keywords in Bible verses so it appeared as if it had been created by a sociopath who knew where every word appears . He later complained that the outcome was typical of " a record company with absolutely no idea what the fuck they were going to do " , and said that the cover " looked like a seventh grader defaced the Bible . " A slip insert was placed in front of the covers in major retail outlets .

= = Reception = =

God Hates Us All was set for release on July 10 ; however , concerns regarding audio mixing , the album cover , and the band 's label ? American Recordings ? changing distributor , caused the release date to be delayed until September 11 , 2001 . The release drew a connection to the September 11 attacks , which was the second time Slayer caused controversy towards one of their releases ? the video for " Seasons in the Abyss " was filmed in Egypt and released prior to the Gulf War . In its week of release , God Hates Us All debuted at number 28 on the Billboard 200 , and

sold 51 @, @ 000 copies . It entered the Canadian Albums Chart at number 9 , and debuted at number 18 on the top Internet album chart . As of August 16 , 2006 the album has sold 304 @, @ 000 copies in the United States .

God Hates us All received generally positive reviews from music critics . On Metacritic , the album has a score of 80 out of 100 based on 12 reviews . Kerrang ! ' s Jason Arnopp described the album as " easily Slayer 's most convincing collection since Seasons in the Abyss , " awarding the album five out of five . Rolling Stone 's Rob Kemp wrote the record was " Slayer 's most brutal record since 1986 's immortal (or undead) Reign in Blood , " describing the music as " galloping double @-@ bass @-@ drum salvos " which " switch on a dime to furious double @-@ time pummeling , as ominous power chords and jagged shred solos slice and dice with Formula One precision . " Kemp awarded the album three and a half out of five . AllMusic reviewer Jason Birchmeier commented that " nearly 20 years into their evolution , Slayer have abandoned the extravagancies and accessibility of their late- ' 80s / early- ' 90s work and returned to perfect the raw approach of their early years . A near flawless album , " and that Araya 's performance possibly makes " the most exhausting Slayer album yet . "

Not all critics were impressed with the album . Blabbermouth.net reviewer Borivoj Krgin dismissively labeled the album as " another failure on the band 's part to take the initiative and reinvent themselves . " Krgin described King as " the weaker and less inventive of the two main songwriters " (King and Hanneman) , feeling the album followed " a familiar direction that almost always sounds tired and forced " as a result of King being the album 's main songwriter . Krgin also singled out Araya for criticism , and called the vocalist a " hollow shell of his former self , boasting a singing style that is monotonous , devoid of creativity and at times virtually unlistenable . " Krgin awarded the record 6 out of 10 , and ended the review by observing that " Slayer 's rapidly diminishing record sales (Diabolus In Musica has shifted less than 300 @, @ 000 copies in the US compared to 600 ? 700 @, @ 000 +) as a sign that the band is in dire need of a new lease on life . " The Washington Post gave it a mixed review , stating , " Of course , what Slayer says isn 't supposed to be nearly as important as how it says it : The riffs are all overdriven and suffocating , and that 's a conscious decision . In its simplest form , a song like " Exile " could pass for Motorhead pushed through the blades of a lawn mower , but that 's selling Slayer short ; guitarist Kerry King actively fights the groove that naturally comes from playing heavy rock @-@ and @-@ roll . "

The song " Disciple " received a Grammy Award nomination for " Best Metal Performance " at the 44th Grammy Awards , the band 's first nomination . The members cared neither about the nomination nor the award ceremony , and although they did not expect to win , thought it was " cool " to be nominated . The ceremony took place on February 27 , 2002 , with Tool winning the award for their song " Schism " .

= = Bostaph 's departure = =

Prior to Christmas 2001 , Bostaph sustained a chronic elbow injury which hindered his ability to drum , resulting in his decision to leave the band . His third @-@ to @-@ last performance with Slayer was recorded on War at the Warfield . To date , Bostaph has not viewed the footage ; he has likened the experience to " breaking up with a girlfriend , " and wants to move on with his life . Bostaph does not regret his time spent with the band , and described the period as a high point in his career . Bostaph eventually rejoined Slayer in 2013 , once again replacing Dave Lombardo .

Without a drummer the band were unable to finish their God Hates Us All tour . King contacted original drummer Dave Lombardo almost ten years after his departure , and asked him if he would be willing to play for the remainder of the tour . Lombardo accepted the offer , and played for the remaining 21 shows ; however , he did not take on a permanent position with the band .

Following the tour , the band continued their search for a permanent drummer , and sought solicitation via demo tape and snail mail . Interested fans sent video recordings of renditions of the songs " Disciple , " " God Send Death , " " Stain of Mind , " " Angel of Death " , " Postmortem / Raining Blood , " " South of Heaven , " " War Ensemble , " and " Seasons in the Abyss " ; complete with résumés . The band listened to hundreds of demo tapes , and created a " good pile " and "

ungood pile , " though the " ungood " was much larger . Those whose performances the band were pleased with were offered an audition in Dallas , San Francisco or Peoria , Illinois ; many applicants , however , were unable to attend due to flight costs . The band auditioned roughly two to three drummers a day , and their top choice was one of Lombardo 's recommendations . However , the band ultimately returned to Lombardo after deciding that they could not find a drummer who suited the job ; Lombardo re @-@ joined Slayer and attended music festivals worldwide to promote God Hates Us All and record drums on the 2006 album Christ Illusion .

= = Track listing = =

= = = Limited edition = = =

The European LP does not contain track 12

= = = Bonus DVD materials = = =

" Darkness of Christ " (DVD Intro video)

" Bloodline " (Video)

" Raining Blood " (Live Video) (2001 @-@ 12 @-@ 07 San Francisco , CA)

" Interview / B @-@ Roll Footage

= = Personnel = =