

**Bible Study on Joshua**  
THE MORALITY OF THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN

\*God commanded Israel to kill all of the Canaanites, every man, woman, and child (Joshua 6:21).

- (1) God is holy, and it's impossible for God to be cruel or unjust (Deut. 32:4).
- (2) The conquest of Canaan was an act of God's justice against an exceedingly wicked people.
  - Leviticus 18-20; Deut. 12:31
  - The Lord delayed His judgement until their iniquity was full (Genesis 15:16)
  - There are different degrees of wickedness (John 19:11)
- (3) God used Israel to execute His judgment on the Canaanites (Romans 13:3-4).
- (4) The conquest of Canaan was not a pattern or policy for future conquests (Deut. 20:10-16).
  - The destruction of the Canaanites was necessary so Israel could be a holy nation.
- (5) The destruction of the Canaanites was a preview of the ultimate Judgment.
  - 2 Peter 3:6-10; Jude 1:7; Luke 13:1-5; Jude 1:14-15; Rev. 19:11-16).

APPLICATION

- “Israel’s destruction of the Canaanites demonstrates how seriously God takes sin. He governs the nations, and He can and will judge those who oppose Him. Christians should heed His warnings and seek to promote justice and righteousness in their nation. We dare not assume God will tolerate evil forever.” (*Encountering the OT*, 169).
- “The total destruction of evil, including the judicial destruction of evil men, is the prerogative of the sovereign God, and it is right not only to pray for the accomplishment of this destruction, but even to assist in effecting it when commanded to do so by God Himself....God is both sovereign and righteous; He possess the unquestionable right to destroy all evil in His universe; if it is right for God to plan and effect this destruction, then it is right also for the saints to pray for the same” (Vos, *Biblical Theology*).
- Psalm 104:34-35; Revelation 19:1-3