

IS GOD GUILTY OF GENOCIDE?

Answering Tough Questions Bible Study Series
Marion Oaks Assembly of God — Pastor Tim McIntyre — 11-1-23

Introduction

Genocide — “the deliberate _____ of people from a _____ nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group”

Text: Deuteronomy 20:10-18

Some say these instructions are _____ to be taken _____, but hyperbolically.

1. Ancient Near Eastern military instructions and records were deliberately _____ for emphasis.
2. The cities attacked were primarily _____ outposts that did _____ house women and children.
3. The end goal was not annihilation, but gradual _____. (Deuteronomy 7:22; 9:5; 18:12; Leviticus 18:24)
4. The Bible states that Joshua _____ obeyed the Lord’s command, and yet, at the end of his life there were _____ Canaanites living in the land. (Joshua 10:40; 11:15; 23:12-13)

Assuming God meant these instructions literally, how do we defend them?

1. _____ people are _____ and are under God’s judgment. (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

2. God was not demanding genocide, but divine _____ for sin. (Deuteronomy 9:5; 18:9, 12; Leviticus 18:24)
3. The Canaanites were utterly _____, immoral, and _____. (Leviticus 18)
4. This evil had to be eliminated so that God’s people would not _____ in it. (Deuteronomy 20:18; Judges 1:28-33; 3:5-7; 21:25)
5. God, in His grace, had already given them more than _____ years to _____. (Genesis 15:13-16)
6. There is indication that if they had _____, they would have been allowed to _____. (Joshua 2 & 9)
7. God is _____; He brought judgment on _____ people because of their sin.

But ... why kill the children?

1. Every act of national judgment includes _____ damage.
2. Even though the children were killed, they were spared a much _____ condition ... being raised to be as _____ as their parents.

Conclusion

Joshua 5:13-15