

Lesson 9

Topic: Genocide in the Conquest

Research Questions

1. Look at these passages about the nature of God and write down the attribute highlighted in each one.

Passage	Attribute or Characteristic of God
James 1:17	
James 1:13	
Deuteronomy 32:4	
Deuteronomy 32:35-36	
Deuteronomy 4:31	

2. Look at these pairs of passages and write down the commands that God gives on each occasion.

Passage 1	God's Command	Passage 2	God's Command
Deuteronomy 18:10		Genesis 22:2 (and cf. Hebrews 11:17-19)	
Exodus 16:29		Joshua 6:3-4	
Exodus 20:13		Exodus 21:12	
Leviticus 19:18		Deuteronomy 25:17-19	

3. Look at the following passages and write down applicable details about when and why the inhabitants of Canaan would be destroyed.

Passage	When?	Why?
Genesis 15:16		
Leviticus 18:1-25		
Deuteronomy 7:1-5		
Deuteronomy 9:5		
Deuteronomy 18:10-12, 14		
1 Kings 21:26		

4. Write down a definition of "genocide" from a reputable dictionary.

Thought Questions

1. Write down some Old Testament passages or stories where God made Himself and His will known to the nations before Israel was told to destroy them. How would you describe the moral content of his interactions? What kind of a God does He show Himself to be?
2. What are some possible ways to understand "he utterly destroyed it and every person who was in it... He left no survivors in it"? Consider also Exodus 23:31 and Numbers 21:29.
3. Look at Exodus 23:29-30 and Deuteronomy 7:22-23. What picture do these verses paint of the process of conquering the land and destroying the nations?
4. How would the process suggested in Exodus 23:29-30 and Deuteronomy 7:22-23 have affected Israel's obedience to commands like the ones found in Leviticus 18:24-30?
5. Based on the passages in this lesson and any other relevant passages, begin drafting a defense of God's commands to Israel to destroy the Canaanites that you would want to share with a skeptical friend who says, "Your God is evil. He commanded his own people to commit genocide against the people who lived in Canaan."