

## The Old Testament – and Holy War

### Introduction:

1. This is one of the hardest subjects we will face all year
2. Our goal today is not to find quick and easy answers

### A Tough Place to Start:

1. We are firstly going to look at **Deuteronomy 7**
2. In the second century, a person named Marcion said that there was an irreconcilable gap between the loving God in the NT and the OT God - His solution like President Jackson was to do cut and paste job
3. You can ignore the hard verses but that does not change the bible
4. **Deut 7:1-6** *“When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations--the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites,” these were all peoples who lived in what was called Canaan, the promised land. “Seven nations larger and strong than you-- And when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. “Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods, and the Lord’s anger will burn against you and will quickly destroy you. “This is what you are to do to them: Break down their altars, smash their sacred stones, cut down their Asherah poles and burn their idols in the fire. For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.”*
5. **Deut: 16:16.** *These are very striking words. “You must destroy all the peoples the Lord your God gives over to you. Do not look on them with pity and do not serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you.”*
6. Then in **Joshua 6:21** we read this about what happened to Jericho. *“They devoted the city to the Lord and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it--men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.”*

### A Holy War:

1. The term Holy War is never used in scripture
2. The first episode of violence only occurs after the fall – this is opposed to other nations
3. God said to Noah, *“I’m going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them.”*
4. We saw this in **Genesis 6** where it says, *“Now the earth was corrupt in God’s sight and full of violence.”*
5. God said to Noah, *“I’m going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them.”*
6. Hebrew word for war is used 300 times in the bible
7. What does the word Spring mean to you?
8. In the story of David and Bathsheba it says, *“in the Spring at the time when kings go off to war”*

9. After the Afghanistan war, they interviewed a man holding an axe – he said, *“I have used this to decapitate 1,300 people.” “We’re called to kill the infidels,”*
10. Wars in the OT are part of an expression of God’s judgement
11. ***Genesis 15:16 ““In the fourth generation your descendants will come back here.”***
12. ***Leviticus 18:24 “for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become defiled”*** - they sacrificed children to a god called Moloch

#### **Pure Worship of the One True God:**

1. The Canaanites had to be removed if Israel’s worship of God was to survive.
2. ***Deut20:18. “Otherwise, God says, “they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshiping their gods, and you will sin against the Lord your God.”***
3. Tablets from Ugarit
4. If worship of the One True God was to survive these kinds of perversions had to stop
5. Wherever Israel allowed Canaanite populations to go on, Israel gets seduced
6. ***Numbers 25: 1-3 “while Israel was staying in Shittim --as they’re getting ready to occupy the promised land--“the men begin to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. So, Israel joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor.”***

#### **God Plays no Favorites:**

1. God also used other nations as instruments of judgment against Israel.
2. ***Joshua 7:1 ““But the Israelites acted unfaithfully in regard to the devoted things; Achkan, son of Carmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So, the Lord’s anger burned against Israel.”***
3. Devoted things is the word Herem is things under the ban – Achkan defied that
4. ***Joshua 9:14 “Israel did not inquire of the Lord.”*** Later the Gibeonites tempt them
5. They end up exactly where they started out--under subjugation of another power.
6. Now they have to ask, ***“Is the covenant gone? Are God’s promises wiped out?”***

#### **Ending with Hope:**

1. ***Jeremiah says in 31:31, ““The time is coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares the Lord. ““This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,’ declares the Lord. ‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbors or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,’ declares the Lord. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”***
2. ***Zechariah 9:9-10 “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. “I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.”***
3. ***“Blessed are the peacemakers”*** We are to be the mediators of the New Covenant