



JOSHUA

COURAGEOUS FAITH

June 30, 2019:

Sunday we continued our series through the book of Joshua by diving into a very complicated question about the nature of God's judgement seen in Joshua. Many stories recorded in Joshua are challenging and troubling to modern readers due to the extreme violence that is seemingly approved by God.

1. Have you ever wondered about the vast contrast in the God of the New Testament and the God of the Old Testament? What are some ways that you have heard this contrast explained?

2. Read Joshua 11:20: What do you think when you read this verse? How can one reconcile a verse like this with the reconciling, loving nature of Jesus as seen in the gospels?

3. Sunday we talked about how the conquest of Canaan, recorded in Joshua, was not an "Israel vs. Canaan" conflict based on ethnic diversity. This removes for us the idea of genocide. There were many Canaanites, (Rahab Joshua 2, the Gibeonites Joshua 9) who recognized the God of Israel as Lord of all and joined His covenant people. How does this reality shape the way we view this conversation?

4. Read 2 Peter 3:9: Is the heart of God communicated here in Peter visible in the Old Testament? Read Genesis 15:16: This verse communicates that God waited around 400 years till judgement came on the Canaanites. Does that change the way you see this?

5. Read Hebrews 11:1, and John 14:7-9: What do these verses teach us about the nature of God? As we look through the "Christocentric Lens" (a fancy way of saying that we view all of Scripture and the world around us through the person of Jesus), how can our understanding of violence in the Old Testament change?

6. This complex conversation has no simple answers but deserves thought and consideration. What questions do you have in relation to this topic?