# TALKING POINTS

# Lessons of Faith from Joshua

Quarter 4, Lesson 5
"God Fights for You"

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**MEMORY VERSE:** "All these kings and their land Joshua took at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel." Joshua 10:42, NKJV

## LESSON STUDY INTRO

"This week, we continue to explore the complexity of divinely sanctioned wars…" Qtly, Sab, par 3

### 1. Sin is abominable to God because it's deadly to us (Sun, Mon)

- The practices of the Canaanite nations were abominations which had defiled the land and its people (Lev. 18:27, 9-30).
    - The Hebrew word for "abomination" means "a detestable thing." God detests sin because it destroys the life of the sinner. This lies at the foundation of God's judgments against these nations.
        - God's wrath is against the sin, not the sinner (see Rom. 1:18).
- Sin is contagious and pervasive. It doesn't only affect the sinner, but all who come in contact with it (Num. 33:55, 56; Ex. 23:33; 34:11, 15, 16).
    - God had already demonstrated, through the example of Cain, the results of leaving sin unpunished. In order to maintain justice and peace for all His creatures, "Yahweh declared war against sin, regardless of where it was found, whether in Israel or among the Canaanites." Qtly, Mon, par 1
- Due to these judgments, God is often accused of genocide. There are several key differences, however–
    - These judgments were carried out under the direct supervision of God.
    - God knows the ultimate outcome.
    - God loves those He destroys.

### 2. Mercy triumphs over judgment (Mon-Wed)

- "God's original purpose for the Canaanites was not annihilation but, instead, dispossession (Num. 33:51-53)." Qtly, Tue, par 1
    - Unfortunately, because of Israel's failure to act, the nations had time to prepare themselves to resist both Israel and Israel's God (see Josh. 2:8-11; Dt. 20:10, 15-18; Josh. 11:19, 20).

When they were at the first preparing to enter Canaan, the undertaking was attended with far less difficulty than now. God had promised His people that if they would obey His voice He would go before them and fight for them; and He would also send hornets to drive out the inhabitants of the land. The fears of the nations had not been generally aroused, and little preparation had been made to oppose their progress. PP 436.4

- Yet God still gave nations and individuals the opportunity to repent (see Gen. 15:16; Dt. 2:4, 5; Josh. 2:12-19).
    - "The majority of the Canaanites, like the Pharaoh of Egypt, hardened their hearts and, as such, became one with the culture to such an extent that the destruction of their culture meant they had to be destroyed, as well." Qtly, Tue, last par
        - "You can take the boy out of the country…"

The Canaanites had abandoned themselves to the foulest and most debasing heathenism, and it was necessary that the land should be cleared of what would so surely prevent the fulfillment of God's gracious purposes. PP 492.1

- Judgment does not come until light is seen and rejected.

[N]ot one is made to suffer the wrath of God until the truth has been brought home to his mind and conscience, and has been rejected…. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently. GC 605.1

### 3. God is not a pacifist *because* He is a lover of peace (Thu)

- Among His other names, Jesus is given the title "Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).
    - Yahweh… is committed to implementing, stabilizing, and maintaining the rule of the law… [T]he goal of Yahweh's activity is never war itself, or victory itself, but the reestablishment of justice and peace." Qtly, Mon, par 3
- God didn't start the controversy in heaven, but He's committed to finishing it.
    - In a sinful world, freedom does not come without a fight.
    - God's ultimate purpose for war, however, is peace, not destruction (compare Joel 3:10 w/Mic. 4:3).

## CONCLUSION

God is slow to anger. He gave the wicked nations a time of probation that they might become acquainted with Him and His character…. All nations had a period of probation. Those who made void God's law would advance from one degree of wickedness to another. Children would inherit the rebellious spirit of their parents and do worse than their fathers before them until God's wrath would fall upon them. The punishment was not less because deferred. 2BC 1005 (Qtly, Fri, par 2)