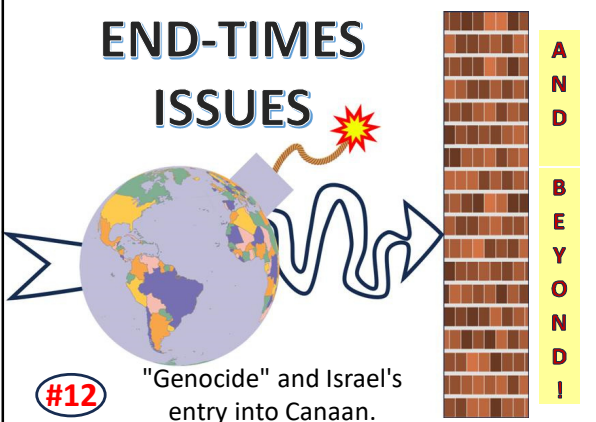


END-TIMES ISSUES



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#12 "Genocide" and Israel's entry into Canaan.

1

"Genocide"

- ⇒ This word was invented in 1944, to describe the systemic murder of Jews during the WW2 Holocaust.
- ⇒ The term is now used to describe "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group..." *
- ⇒ Dozens of genocides have occurred since WW2, but the action described by this word has occurred *throughout human history*.



* Source: <https://web.archive.org/web/20230417034403/https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide.shtml>

2

Genocide & Israel?

>> When taking over the land of Canaan? <<

- ⇒ There are people today, who claim that Israel committed "genocide," when they took over the land of Canaan.
- ⇒ Many apostate church-goers have accepted the claim as true. (They get their views from the world, not from Scripture.)
- ⇒ Even some Jews view it that way.

We are embarrassed about our past...

★ BUT WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE TELL US? ★

3

First of all: People who make this accusation are ignoring the "God factor" that is a part of the Old Testament account.

- They do this because of a *deeper* issue: They are sinners who *suppress the truth about God*.

... people, who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness, ...

Romans 1:18b (NIV)

- ⇒ Some distort the "God factor," based on false views that people have invented about God.
- Some even go so far as to accuse God of wrongdoing. (Apostate church-goers often do this.)

The "Old Testament god" was a mean ogre.
Definitely not a god of love!

4

- ⇒ Some deny the God factor," by reducing the Bible's message to the level of "religion." They lower the God of the Bible, and treat him as no different than any of the "gods" that religions have invented.

God told Israel to ...

A likely story! All religions make that claim! What makes *your* god so special?

- The truth of the matter is this: There is only ONE GOD, and he is NOT a "religion"!

... the LORD is God; **there is no other** besides Him.

Deuteronomy 4:35b (BSB)

True "religion" is an expression of *love* for the God of the Bible and for one's "neighbor" (i.e., other people) – James 1:26-27. (The Old Testament ceremonial practices, when done out of love for God, also qualified as "religion.") Any other expression of "religion" is false religion.

5

- The "gods" of the world's religions are called *demons* in the Bible.

They sacrificed to **demons**, not to God ...

Deuteronomy 32:17a (BSB)

Whether we call them "gods" or "demons," they are created entities (now evil).

... what the pagans sacrifice is to **demons** and not to God.

1 Corinthians 10:20b (NET)

- The God of the Bible is greater than *any* of them!

I know the LORD is great! Our Lord is **greater than all the gods!**

Psalm 135:5 (ERV)

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is **to be feared above all gods.**

1 Chronicles 16:25 (NIV)

6

The true God, and his relationship to Israel.

- This God, the *true* God, is the God of Israel.
- This did NOT happen because *THEY* chose *him*. Rather, *HE* chose *them*, because of promises he made to their ancestors.

He chose you to be his own special possession out of all the nations on earth.

The Lord set his heart on you and **chose you** ... the smallest of all nations. **You were chosen** because the Lord loved you and **kept the oath he swore to your ancestors**.

Deuteronomy 7:6b-8a (GW)

(Other examples: Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2; 34:4; 2 Kings 13:23; Isaiah 41:8-9; etc.)

- Israel was *never* faithful enough for God to make such a promise to *them*!

This love was because of his oath to their ancestors, not because they "deserved" it.

- This is the God, who made (and owns) the *entire* earth. This means he has the right to give it to whomever he pleases.

By my great strength and outstretched arm, **I made the earth, and the people**, and animals on the face of the earth. **I give it to anyone I please.**

Jeremiah 27:5 (CSB)

- And he *does* raise up and tear down nations.

He makes nations great and destroys them; **He enlarges** nations, then **disperses** them.

Job 12:23 (BSB)

He removes kings and establishes them.

Daniel 2:21 (BSB)

There is a moral responsibility connected to the land.
All Scripture passages that give us a *reason* for God destroying a nation tell us that it is because of that nation's evil practices. (This may include mistreatment of Israel.)

- God did not give Israel the land of Canaan because they *deserved* it.

"After the LORD your God has done this for you, don't say in your hearts, 'The LORD has given us this land because we are such good people!' ... It is **not because you are so good or have such integrity** that you are about to occupy their land. ... You must recognize that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land because you are good, **for you are not—you are a stubborn people.**"

Deuteronomy 9:4a, 5a, 6 (NLT)

- Instead, God gave Israel the land of Canaan for these two reasons:


- 1 "... it is because of **the wickedness of the other nations** that he is pushing them out of your way. ...
- 2 The LORD your God will drive these nations out ahead of you only because of their wickedness, and **to fulfill the oath he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**"

Deuteronomy 9:4b, 5b (NLT)

⇒ Second: Israel had **none** of the characteristics that would have made it possible for them to commit genocide!

THEY COULD NOT HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DONE THIS!!!

WE WANT YOUR LAND, AND WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU TO GET IT.



- Israel was **too weak** in every respect; and the Canaanites were **too strong** in every respect. (If genocide had occurred, the victim would have been Israel!)

- When Israel originally prepared to enter the land of Canaan, they sent in spies to learn about the people. This is what they discovered:

Nevertheless, the people living in the land are **strong**, and the **cities are large and fortified**. We even saw the **descendants of Anak** there.

Numbers 13:28-29 (BSB)

(The descendants of Anak – the Anakim – were *giants*.)

The people are **larger and taller** than we are; the cities are **large**, with **walls up to the heavens**. We even saw the descendants of the **Anakim** there.

Deuteronomy 1:28b (GW)

We shall see that this was half-truth; and without the other half, they reached the wrong conclusion. Result? They rebelled, and were not allowed to enter the land of Canaan.

- According to Moses, 38 years later, what the spies said was true.

... nations **greater and stronger** than you ...

Deuteronomy 4:38b (GW)

...nations **greater and stronger** than you.

Deuteronomy 11:23b (BSB)

...seven nations **larger and more powerful** than you.

Deuteronomy 7:1b (GW)

... nations that are **larger and stronger** than you, with **big cities** that have **sky-high walls**. Their people are **tall and strong**. They're **descendants of Anak**. You know all about them. You've also heard it said, "Who can oppose the descendants of Anak?"

Deuteronomy 9:1b-2 (GW)

- The problem was that they omitted the more important truth!

- The spies demonstrated (inadvertently) that "half-truth" is "half-lie" – and that eventually the lie wins. *Their conclusion, based on this half-truth, was:*

"We cannot go up against the people, for they are **stronger** than we are!"

"The **land we explored devours its inhabitants**, and all the people we saw there are **great in stature**. We even saw the **Nephilim** there—the **descendants of Anak** that come from the Nephilim! **We seemed like grasshoppers** in our own sight, and we must have seemed the same to them!"

Numbers 13:31, 32b-33 (BSB)
- The issue:** *They ignored the "God factor" – and this was an act of rebellion.*

But **you rebelled** against the command of the Lord your God and refused to go.

Deuteronomy 1:26 (GW)

13

- They even started accusing God of wanting to kill them!

"Why is the Lord bringing us to this land—just to have us die in battle? Our wives and children will be taken as prisoners of war! Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

Numbers 14:3 (GW)
- God threatened to kill them off, because of their rebellion – and *they deserved it*. But Moses interceded (Numbers 14:13-19).

"I'll strike them with a plague, I'll destroy them, and I'll make you = Moses] into a nation larger and stronger than they are."

Numbers 14:12 (GW)
- There would still be consequences. They would have to remain in the wilderness for another 38 years, until all those 20-years and older, who had seen God's glorious protection in Egypt and in the wilderness, had died. Only their *children* would enter Canaan.

14

Here is the "half-truth" that most of the original spies ignored:

- Had they paid attention to it, their whole perspective would have changed.

If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us. ...

Don't rebel against the Lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. We will devour them like bread. **They have no protection, and the Lord is with us. So don't be afraid of them.**"

Numbers 14:8b, 9 (GW)
- This was the "God factor" – and with it, there would have been *only one possible conclusion*:

"We must go up and take possession of the land, for **we can certainly conquer it!**"

Numbers 13:30b (BSB)

15

- They ignored the "God factor," *even though God had already proven himself faithful!*

Then I [= Moses] said to you, "Don't tremble. Don't be afraid of them. **The Lord your God**, who is going ahead of you, **will fight for you** as **you saw him fight for you in Egypt and in the desert.**" There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as parents carry their children. He carried you wherever you went until you came to this place.

Deuteronomy 1:29-31 (GW)
- They did not trust the God who had *already* proved his trustworthiness!

In spite of this, **you didn't trust the Lord your God**, who went ahead of you to find places for you to camp. He appeared in a column of fire at night and in a column of smoke during the day to show you which route to take.

Deuteronomy 1:32-33 (GW)

16

★ **Without the "God factor," Israel was merely a group of wanderers who didn't have the capability of winning a battle in Canaan.** ★

- When they tried to do it without God...

They said, "We have sinned. Now we'll go to the place the Lord promised."

But Moses asked, "Why are you disobeying the Lord's command? **Your plan won't work! Don't go! You will be defeated** by your enemies because **the Lord is not with you**. The Amalekites and Canaanites are there, and **you will die in battle**. Now that you have turned away from the Lord, **the Lord will not be with you.**"

But they headed into the mountain region anyway, even though the ark of the Lord's promise and Moses stayed in the camp. **The Amalekites and Canaanites who lived there came down from those mountains, attacked the Israelites, and defeated them at Hormah.**

Numbers 14:40b, 41-45 (GW)

17

Finally, one more consideration: **Even their enemies acknowledged that the "God factor" was the reason for Israel's success.**

- Most of the Canaanites didn't repent. But they had more integrity than many of the modern-day moral fools, who choose to ignore or deny the "God factor"!

Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

Psalms 14:1a (NLT)

EXAMPLE #1 – The Amorite and Canaanite kings:

[When they] ... **heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan** before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

Joshua 5:1b (NIV)

MORE →

18

EXAMPLE #2 – What Rahab (a citizen of Jericho) said to the spies sent by Joshua:

[She] said to them, "I know that **the LORD has given you this land** and that the fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who dwell in the land are melting in fear of you.

For we have heard how **the LORD dried up the waters of the Red Sea** before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites across the Jordan, whom you devoted to destruction.

When we heard this, our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, **for the LORD your God is God in the heavens above and on the earth below.**"

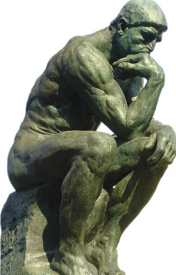
Joshua 2:9-11 (BSB)

19

TIME TO THINK CAREFULLY!

- Considering the nature of the situation (which we have just described) ... do you *really* think Israel was *capable* of committing genocide?
 - Do you *really* think Israel could have marched into a land full of people who were *much stronger, larger in size and number, and residing in fortified cities*, and kill them off, so that they could take over their land?

OF COURSE NOT!!!
 - It never could have happened* without the "God factor." And when God is actively involved in the fight, the word "genocide" doesn't even qualify as a term for consideration!



20

The "God factor" is the *only possible way Israel could succeed.*

- They have become so wicked that I will no longer tolerate it.
- You are to destroy them completely.
- But you are totally incapable of doing so.
- You will have to trust me to destroy them *for you and through you*.
- Otherwise, you will completely fail, and they will totally destroy you.

Israel's options:

- ✓ Decide they're strong enough; try it on their own; get destroyed.
- ✓ Decide they're too weak to do it, and refuse to obey God.
- ✓ Obey, relying on God, aware of their own inability, and succeed.

21

OUR MISSION:

Consider the "God factor" in our own lives!

★ DON'T DISTORT IT! ★ ★ DON'T DENY IT! ★

(We're often no better than Israel was.)

- Jesus requires us to do things that we cannot do, unless the "God factor" controls our lives.

↓

We're NOT referring to opinions, impressions, or emotional "feelings" that could be of questionable nature, but to direct obligations found in Scripture, about which there should be no question.

How do we respond to such things? Are our lives controlled by the "God factor"?

HAVE WE LEARNED TO TRUST GOD?

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