

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Episode 8: Absence of Mercy

All civilized people abhor that happened on September 11, 2001; are we equally to abhor what happened in Jericho more than three millennia ago?

~ Stan Gundry

Genocide:
The systematic slaughter of a group or race or people.

But as for the towns of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, you must not let anything that breathes remain alive. You shall annihilate them--the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites--just as the LORD your God has commanded.

~ Moses

We hang our heads to admit it, but *jihad* is not a Muslim invention.

~ C.S. Cowles

Yes, the indiscriminate and promiscuous slaughter of the Canaanites, making no distinction of age or sex, but including alike women and children, the aged and decrepit, might seem an inhuman massacre, had it not been executed by the command of God.

~ John Calvin

I have seen the face of God in the Old Testament. It is not the face of Jesus. It is the face of Osama bin Laden.

~ Bob Bilmont

All that can be said is that if God is all the Bible says he is, all that he does must be good – and that includes his authorization of genocide.

~ Eugene H. Merrill

What is this? The wanton slaughter of human beings – little children and tiny infants, fetuses in mothers' wombs, the infirm and aged, the

mentally retarded and physically handicapped, the blind and lame – considered a "righteous act"? What, we wonder, might an "unrighteous act" look like?

~ C.S. Cowles

The way of God does not answer to our norms of good and evil. God is a rough God, grim, and in our eyes even cruel. God is not one you can figure out. Majestically he goes his own way. God and evil both come forth from his will.

~ A. van de Beek

Against such an image of God the revolt of atheism is an act of pure religion.

~ Walter Wink

If we believe that Jesus is truly "the image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15), then we must resist all efforts to defend Old Testament genocidal commands as reflective of the will and character of God. Since Jesus has come, we are under no obligation to justify that which cannot be justified, but can only be described as pre-Christ, sub-Christ, and anti-Christ.

~ C.S. Cowles

When the Lord your God hands these nations over to you and you conquer them, you *must completely destroy them. Make no treaties with them and show them no mercy.*

~ Moses

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

~ Jesus

Praise God with songs on your lips and a sword in your hand.

Take revenge and punish the nations.

~ Psalm 149:6-7 (CEV)

You have heard that the law of Moses says, 'Love your neighbour' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too.

~ Jesus

Must we choose between following the Old Testament and the New?

~ Bob Bilmont