



Bible-based. Christ-centered. Family-focused. Mission-minded.

Welcome! We're glad you are here!

Sunday - February 4, 2024

Poor Canaanites?

by Troy Spradlin

The world has a long history of genocide. In 1990, civil war broke out in Rwanda, Africa resulting in the murder of around 1 million people. In 1976, under Pol Pot's Communist Regime in Cambodia, as many as 2 million people are estimated to have been killed. Of course, the most widely-known genocide in history is Adolph Hitler's extermination of more than six million Jews and other people from 1939 to 1945. But, the world's worst genocide is attributed to Mao Zedong who terminated anywhere between 40 to 70 million people during his reign over Communist China (1949 to 1976). Most rational, sane people, despite their background, ethnicity, or religious beliefs, view these events as cruel, callous, and nefarious. It is considered a terrible crime against humanity.

So, if mass murder is horrible and unacceptable, then **what about the destruction of the Canaanites in the Old Testament?** (see Exodus 23:23; Deuteronomy 7:1-2; Joshua 3:10, 9:24) Wouldn't that be considered genocide? How could a loving God instruct one group of people to kill and conquer another group? What are Christians to make of that? The answer is found in context. Here are three points to keep in mind:

God is Sovereign. The first thing one must understand is God is the Creator, we are the creation. He is the highest authority. Period. Thus, He has the right to do with His creation as He desires. His omnipotence might not sit well in some minds, but it doesn't change the truth. God said, *"My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways, ... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways ..."* (Isaiah 55:8-9) It is foolish to try and judge God's actions with human wisdom when we are not in a position to do so. *"Indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to Him who formed it, 'Why have you made me like this?' Does not the potter have power over the clay ...?"* (Romans 9:20-21)



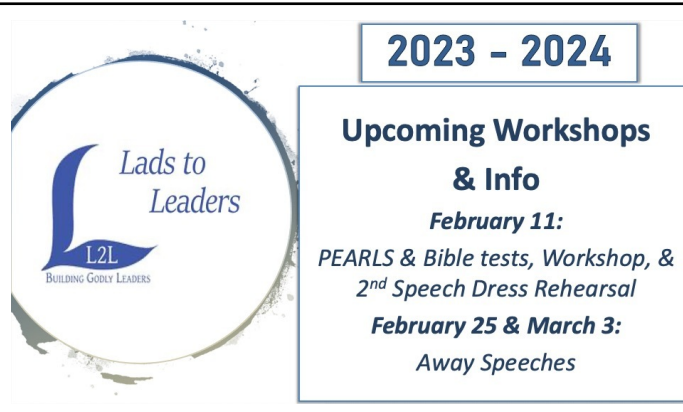
God is Longsuffering. The second thing to understand is that God did not just make a impulsive or capricious decision to destroy the nations of Canaan. God is *"slow to anger and great in mercy"* (Psalm 145:8). He is *"longsuffering..., not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9) God waited more than four centuries to bring judgment upon the inhabitants of Canaan. To Abraham, he stated, *"the iniquity of the Amorites" was 'not yet complete'"* (Genesis 15:16). He knew their sin was getting worse! But, His patience has a limit. When the Canaanites' iniquity was full, God used Israel as His agent of justice upon a barbarous culture. This is the lesson we must learn. His patience with impenitent sinners eventually ends, just like it did for the wicked world of Noah's time, or for Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of Abraham. In the same manner, it ended for the inhabitants of Canaan.

God is a Just Judge. Lastly, while we may not fully comprehend God's eternal ways, or completely recognize that His patience is limited, He is still loving, holy, merciful and righteous. Yet, His love and mercy does not prohibit Him from punishing wickedness any more than loving, merciful parents, policemen, or judges might justly administer punishment to those who violate the rules or law. In fact, it would be unloving if God did nothing to sinners!

The people of Canaan were far from innocent! They practiced human sacrifice (murdering innocent children), worshiping idols, incest, bestiality, and were extremely hostile toward Yahweh. They were also fully aware of God's expectations (if Nineveh knew to repent, so did Canaan - cf. Jonah 3:10; Joshua 2:10). They could have even saved their own lives, just like Rahab and her family did (Joshua 2:1-4). Therefore, if a policeman, who has the authority (both from God and the government - Romans 13:1-4) to kill a wicked person who is murdering others, or a judge has the authority to sentence a depraved child rapist to death, then God certainly has the authority to sentence a wicked nation to execution. Loving-kindness and capital punishment are not contradictory.



MSYG EVENTS & INFO



THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE:

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Digital access to our Calendars on your computer or personal device.

Scan this QR Code for the Church Calendar on teamup.com

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER LIST

Recent/Urgent Requests

- Rick Bird* - removed appendix, recovery
- Becky Bernardi - prayers (AGingerich's mom)
- Cassie Buchanan* - 2nd surgery, recovery
- Ann Cotton - losing blood (DWest MiL)
- Caitlin Crider* - surgery, recovery
- Richard Curtis - SHH, kidneys (Fisher*)
- Dawson Hitchcock* - covets prayers
- Gail Mantie - health, tests (Amber D. mom)
- Sharon Parker* - seizures, upcoming surgery
- Lee Smith - fractured vertabrae, kidney infec.
- Edwina Sumrall-broken shoulder, pneumonia
- Caden Thompson - premature baby (J.Carter)
- Willie Waitman Jr. - leg amputation(Pace)
- Ruth Williams* - oral surgery, recovery

Grieving a Loss

- Terry Baxley* - passing of Darlene
- Brooklyn Bostwick* - loss of mom, Kandi
- John Hart Ellis* - loss of wife
- Gary Good* - loss of sister
- Debbie Hill* and family - loss of Mary Salinas
- Hatcher family* - loss of mom, Rachel Sullins
- Judy Jennings and family* - loss of Terry
- Doug Lee & family* - loss of mom, Betty
- Linda Loftin* and family - loss of Jim*
- Scott Shanahan - loss of Scott's father, Kevin
- Gloria Vonada & family - loss of Troy*

Assisted Living / Shut-Ins / Rehab

- Dennis Brice - hospice (Gary Coleman*)
- Sherryn Canniff* - homebound
- Sherry Davis*-Memory Care (Davis/Napier*)
- Renee Decker - hospice (Lester*)
- Donna Dudley-Life Care Center (S. Davis*)
- Annie Favorite - Haven (Mary Lou's mom)
- Bobbie Garcia*- Fort Walton Beach
- Linda Mann* - Shut In
- Peggy Masoner - Santa Rose Health Care
- Larry McDaniel*-Santa Rosa Rehab
- Ina Ruth Miller*
- Ruth Phillips*- Shut In
- Jim Pitts - Daphne, AL
- Lillian Raines* - Victorian Manor
- Faye Smith - Shut in (JEnglish mom)
- Marlene Smith - (Fulton*)

Students in College

- Haley Bartell
- Seth Crider
- Stephen English
- Caitlyn Frizzell
- Jackson Lash
- Caleb Owens
- Savannah Smith
- LizAnn Webb
- Nick Webb
- Lily Weathersbee
- Reed Wilson
- Lexi Wildes

Other Requests / Health Issues

- Sharon Ates - upcoming surg. (Gallagher*)
- Gerry Baldwin - health (J.Pace sister)
- Louie Bond - knee surgery, recovery
- John & Gale Broadfoot - health
- Rachel Bugsby -heart surgery, recovery
- Robbie Bullard-aneurysm/defect valve (Lee*)
- Janice Carter* - mobility, prayers
- Robert Collins - foot problem (J.Pace cousin)
- Keturah Dickey - MS (K. Longmire*)
- Laura Elliot - (S. Lee* mom)
- Myrna Fuller* - pulmonary fibrosis
- Steve Fulton - pain, health difficulties
- Dixie Gorham - heart failure
- Scott Graham* - back pain
- Edwina Harris - health (J.Pace sister)
- Steve Hartzog - health issues(Alonna's friend)
- Donald Hamilton - tests, health (McGriff*)
- Kenna Jackson - (Kristina P's* friend)
- Josie Locklin* - fractured vertebrae , health
- Yvonne Loomis - prayers, health (Nunes*)
- Martin family* - prayers
- Vicente Martinez - kidney transplant
- Donald McGriff* - health, prayers
- Mary McGriff* - @ home recovering
- Theresa McHargue-ill, prayers (Gallagher*)
- Ron Miller- esophagus infection (Ina Ruth*)
- Jeffery Norman - transplant list (Nunes*)
- Ruth Phillips* - health, prayers
- Patsy Prince - (Burnham*)
- Otis & Eleanor Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Kara Ritchie - blood disorder (M.Scott*)
- Glenn Rose - heart problems (Garcia*)
- Jennifer Salter - surgery, recovery (Ruth W.*)
- Rodger Schwitzerlett - (Gallagher*)
- Donnie Turner- (Helms*)

Military

- John Bartell - Washington, DC
- Spencer England - Jacksonville, FL
- Javanta Johnson - NAS Jacksonville Airforce
- Spencer Gable - New London, Groton, CT
- Amya Huey* - Italy
- Ni Mack - Kansas

Mission Works

- Shanahans* - Mission Italy
- Eliezer Perez - San Lorenzo, Paraguay
- Trevor Smoot - Domestic Missions
- Sebastain Garcia - Brazil
- SRC Correctional Institute

Cancer

- Mike Anderson - (Warrington)
- Misty Bray* - (Bird*)
- Jimmy Calhoun - (Mike Scott*)
- Mark Carlson - (C.Davis*)
- Tish Clark - (Hatcher*)
- Jack Davis*
- Sheryl Downy - surgery (Burnham*)
- Eddie English - (R.English*)
- Timothy Ezzell - former member
- Chris Hendrix - (Baxley*)
- Ricky Jennings - (McGriff*)
- Lisa (Dixon) Johnson - (McGriff*)
- Tierney Lancaster - rare blood (Baxley*)
- Evergena Larkin - final stages (McGriff*)
- Greg Lewis* - lung cancer
- Marie and Jeff Lorentz - (J. Bartell*)
- Peter Machon - (Torpey*)
- Darrel Mason - (D.Hill*)
- Connie Moore - (Fulton*)
- Karen Parker - (Spradlin* friend)
- Ariel Perry - throat (Hatcher)
- Karen Pollit - (Gallagher*)
- Al Sherdan - bladder/prostatic cancer (Coen)
- Brooks Ann Singley* - waiting on results
- Mary Lee Smith - (McGriff*)
- Meg Stojanik - (Hatcher*)
- Buz Turner*
- Reynold Voeltz - (Boughton's friend)
- David Walther - brain (English*)
- Kellie (Wiggins) Ward - (former mem.)
- Daisy Jean Williams - (J.Pace)

Expectant Mothers

- Hannah Newcomb - April 2024
- Tara Henry - May 2024

Recently Baptized/Restored/Identified

- Makenley Hitchcock - Baptized 12/31/23
- Debbie Gill* - Baptized 1/23/24
- Savannah Smith* - Baptized 1/31/24
- Dawson Hitchcock - Restored 12/31/23



SERVING WITH HONOR

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

MORNING

Opening Prayer Mason Chandler
 Song Director Caleb Overton
 Sermon Brian Howard
 FSOP Presentation
 Scripture Reading Holden Raley
 2 Tim 2:1-2
 Closing Prayer Joe Wilson

Serving Communion (Left - Right):

Brett Napier Justin Davis
 Pat Mense Darrell Bozeman
 Michael English (Balcony)
 Comments John Pace

EVENING

Opening Prayer Bob Locklin
 Singing Dalton Lester
 Scripture Mike Frahm
 Romans 15:27
 Comments John Pace

Worship Service and Preparation:

Communion Prep Lanya Lester
 PowerPoint Lori Mense
 Greeters John Pace
 Secure Building Phillip Webb

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Song Director Holden Raley
 Opening Prayer Pete Pierce

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REPORT:

Sunday Bible Class 170
 AM Worship 217
 PM Worship 119
 Wed. Night Bible Class 149
 Contribution \$29,816
 Weekly Budget TBA
 2023 Average Contribution \$22,695

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday AM Bible Class 9:00 am
 Sunday AM Worship 10:00 am
 Sunday PM Classes, Worship . 6:00 pm
 Wednesday PM Bible Class 6:30 pm

Visitors:

Thank you for coming!

You are our honored guest!

For more information about the church, spiritual topics, our classes, and activities, there is a tract rack at the entrance of the auditorium for your convenience.

Or, ask any member for assistance.

Please take a moment to fill out a visitors card, or sign our guest book so that we might have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION

- Deadline for all bulletin items is **Thursday**, by noon.
- If interested in utilizing the library, please reserve with Blisse or Lisa.
- Apologetics Press Study Bibles available for purchase - see Blisse.
- **Reminder:** If you use online giving, please consider covering the processing fees as part of your contribution.



FOOD PANTRY

- **Food Pickup** : 2/6/24 @ 9:30 AM
- **Preparing Boxes:**
 - 2/7/24 @ 5:30 PM
 - 2/8/24 @ 9:30 AM
- **Distribution** : 2/8/24 @ 2:30 PM

EDUCATION

- Adult and Children Bible classes available on Sundays @ 9 AM and Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM.
- Willing to teach? See Chris Davis!



OWLS BIBLE STUDY
ANGELS AND DEMONS
 Every Thursdays @ 10:30 AM
 Starting February 1st

<WiFi Password posted in Foyer>



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 Building & Grounds Paul Lipford*
 Education Chris Davis*
 Evangelism Troy Spradlin
 Finance
 Fellowship Jeff Scott*
 Involvement Joe Taylor*
 Lads to Leaders David English
 OWLS Stephen Fulton
 Missions Mike Scott*
 Visitation Bob Locklin
 Mason Chandler
 Kingdom Kids Dane Harrington*
 Worship Blake Hatcher*
 Youth & Family Casey Bearden