**Questions And Answers**

**~Various Scriptures – Is The God Of The Old Testament A God Of War~**

**\*\* As we begin:**

* Some have asked, “How can I accept a God Who, it seems, in the OT, is a God of war.”
* There are things recorded in the Bible that happened that God did not condone.
* Is the God of the Old Testament the same as the God of the New Testament.

**What The Bible Says About This Difficult Subject**

**Keep in mind that God is All-Knowing**

* God knows everything that will happen, and He knows everything that could happen.
* He gave humanity freewill and yes, He knew they would make bad, wicked decisions, but He did not make them do so. They chose to and most people love having the freedom to choose.
* God knowing everything does not make God responsible for man’s choices.
* Sadly, in some cases, bad decisions are made in which people suffer. The Amalekites were very wicked, and the children were raised to hate.
* God showed mercy when He told Israel to drive these people out of the land because God knew the children would grow up to be very wicked. See **Ex. 34:6-7**.

**God will allow people to escape judgment if they turn to Him**

* Think of Nineveh that repented at the teaching of Jonah. God spared them.
* People such as the Amalekites were on a mission to destroy Israel.
* **Deut. 7:1-26** tells us that God would give the Promised Land to Israel and they were to drive the people out. Note **vss. 2,5,16**. See **Num. 21:2-3; Deut. 20:17; Josh. 2:10; Josh. 10:28**.
* The Canaanites may have been the most depraved culture on earth, and it filtered down to their children. God also gave some of these people centuries to repent of their sin.

**\*\* Some examples of God’s judgment and mercy:**

**1) The flood in Gen. 6**

* By Gen. 6 man was wicked **(vs. 5)**. When we think of wickedness, we think of sin at its worse.
* “Every intention” (imagination, purpose) of people were continually evil **(vs. 5)**.
* The word “only” has restrictive force. This is what the people did – rejected God, acted sinful.
* God showed grace. Noah was a preacher of righteousness **(2 Peter 2:5)** who for over 100 years taught the people about God and was ignored. We deserve judgment, yet God saves us **(2 Peter 3:9)**.
* You wonder how many children were still around at that time. Even kids can act evil.

**2) Sodom and Gomorrah**

* Lot lived there **(2 Peter 2:8-9)** and he suffered spiritually for doing so.
* God was willing to spare the cities if ten righteous people could be found. See **Gen. 18-19**. God gave them a chance to repent.

**3) The Egyptians**

* In **Ex. 5-15** we read of the plagues God brought on Egypt that concluded with the death of the firstborn. Pharaoh had opportunities to let Israel go **(Ex. 7:22-23; 8:8-15)**. He hardened his heart first.
* God gave a way out for Pharaoh and everyone else. Each plague gave him a chance to release Israel and he could have repented at any time.
* Pharaoh is responsible for what happened.

**4) The Canaanites, the people groups found in the land of Canaan**

* These people were incredibly wicked and were raising they children to be the same. They practiced child sacrifice. Their religion was immoral and disgusting.
* Their children would grow up hateful of Israel and God. To claim God was wrong for driving these people out of Canaan means we have to know as much as God does to claim He was wrong.
* In fact, God waited over four centuries to give these people in Canaan a chance to change.
* **Lev. 18:2-30** lists many of the sins of the people in the land of Canaan. See specifically **vss. 24-30**.
* **Num. 31** shows that some of the children were spared when Israel went through the land. The people there were warned ahead of time. And most likely the women and children fled.
* **Deut. 20:16-18** troubles some. Israel was to thoroughly deal with these people in Canaan because of their religious practices. God spared people in Canaan (i.e., Rahab)

**Is the God of the OT different than the God of the NT?**

* Jn. 3:16 tells us God is a God of love. Jn. 5:25-29 also tells us that Christ will judge people.
* In 2 Thess. 1:7-10 Christ returns in judgment. See the Book of Revelation. The God of the OT (see Ex. 34:6-7) is the same God of the NT. A God of love but a God of truth and righteousness.

**\*\* Four thoughts to consider as we finish:**

**1) God is a God of love, mercy, and grace, but He is also righteous.** Remember Nineveh.

**2) Whether we like it or not, God is God, the Creator of all things.** He knows everything, we do not.

**3) The Canaanites were incredibly wicked.** They were as bad as you could get, and God knew that.

**4) Do we trust the Bible or not?** External and internal evidence points to us being able to trust it.