



but what about

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

THE ENEMY OF FAITH IS NOT DOUBT; IT IS UNEXPRESSED DOUBT. THE CHURCH SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE ANYONE CAN ASK “BUT WHAT ABOUT...?” AND FACE SOME OF FAITH’S TOUGHEST QUESTIONS WITH HONESTY AND CONVICTION. THAT’S WHAT THIS SERIES WILL DO.

1 The Bible, especially the Old Testament, contains stories about some of God’s actions that seem overly extreme. What stories in the Bible strike you this way? What is the problem of assuming that *what is wrong for us is wrong for God*?

2 Read **Deuteronomy 20:16-18**. What was God’s motivation for wanting Israel to drive the Canaanites out of the promised land?

NOTE: One of the big questions Rick asked us to think about is “How do we reconcile texts like these with what other texts claim about the character of God?” In his message he asked us to CONSIDER three key things in relationship to this question: (1) Those battles *may not have been as extreme as they seem*. (2) Those nations *were not deprived of opportunities to escape judgment*. (3) Those stories *are part of God’s bigger story to save the nations*. The next 3 questions reflect on each of these one at a time.

3 CONSIDER: Those battles *may not have been as extreme as they seem*. Read **Joshua 10:40 and 23:12-13**. What point was the writer making with the usage of hyperbole? How does this help you reconcile this part of the story with God’s character?

4 CONSIDER: Those nations *were not deprived of opportunities to escape judgment*. Read **Genesis 15:16 & Joshua 2:8-11**. In what ways did God exercise great patience with the Canaanites, and did He provide opportunity for them to escape judgment?

5 CONSIDER: Those stories *are part of God’s bigger story to save the nations*. Read **Genesis 12:1-3**. How was Israel to be part of God’s plan to bless the nations? How did the “destruction” of the Canaanites fit into that plan?

6 Our unchanging God will judge, and it will be fair. Read **2 Peter 3:3-15**. What can the judgment of the Canaanites teach us about the coming judgment at Christ’s return? How should this impact how we live today?

7 God’s unfailing love took judgment on Himself, and it wasn’t fair. Read **Romans 3:21-26** The scandal of the cross is that God took our judgment on Himself. God was crucified by His enemies in order to redeem them. Every other scandal in the Bible must be seen through the lens of this one. How does the cross provide the ultimate answer for our faith struggles?

