

BIBLICAL MASACRES



Joshua 6

- **20** When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city. **21** They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.
- **22** Joshua said to the two men who had spied out the land, “Go into the prostitute’s house and bring her out and all who belong to her, in accordance with your oath to her.” **23** So the young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother, her brothers and sisters and all who belonged to her. They brought out her entire family and put them in a place outside the camp of Israel.

- Richard Dawkins
- “The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully.”



How can God be just and loving?

- Genocide / Massacres in the Bible ???
- A full clarity not possible – the “story” is not over yet.
- God is just (Rom 9:14, Deut 32:4) – because we don’t understand cannot declare him “unjust.” God does not conform to our sense of justice.
- Elimination for wickedness – not “ethnic cleansing.” (Lev 18:24-30)
- Amalekites – same fate for them for their extreme violence.
- Elimination – to avoid exploitation (Tim Keller)
- Israel chosen to bless the world – Amalekites, etc. included – Israel had to be protected from elimination – how this will pan out yet to be seen.
- God’s judgements ultimately restorative in nature – not destructive.