

GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT





BREAKING NEWS

GOD RESIGNS DUE TO OLD TESTAMENT

LIVE



9.30 AM AEST



Pope Francis ✓

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The offensive attitudes and statements discovered in the Old Testament are indefensible and inconsistent with our Christian values, and we have severed our business relationship with the holy father.



*THEN ONE OF THE ELDERS SAID TO ME, "DO NOT WEEP! SEE, **THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, THE ROOT OF DAVID, HAS TRIUMPHED.** HE IS ABLE TO OPEN THE SCROLL AND ITS SEVEN SEALS."* (REV 5:5)



THEN I SAW A LAMB, LOOKING AS IF IT HAD BEEN SLAIN... (REV. 5:6)

THE SAME GOD AS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

- *In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, **but you remain**; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded. **But you remain the same**, and your years will never end. (Ps. 102:25-27 NIV)*
- The NT fulfills the OT, and Jesus is the supreme revelation of who God is. But still, our view of God is not complete without the OT.
- And: The story is not over yet! Jesus came as a suffering servant, but he will return like a conquering king. If we focus too much on the “suffering servant” aspect, the Old Testament will probably feel foreign to us because God in the OT is more like the conquering king.

“

"We have no place to gain a confident picture of God except from the Bible. Whatever we get from human speculation is just that. If this is so, we should be committed to the picture the Bible provides - the whole picture. Sometimes when we install new software on our computers we might be asked whether we want to do a full install or a custom install. Most of us don't know enough to do a custom install because we don't know what is important and what is not. Likewise, as the Bible gives us a picture of God, we cannot settle for a custom install. If we choose what we like and what we don't, we are merely shaping God in our own image. We do not have that choice. We need the full install. That is what we mean when we talk about submitting to the Bible's authority.

”

— *Walton and Longman (How to Read Job)*

THE WARS IN THE OT

IS THIS THE "CHRISTIAN" GOD?



**1. GOD USED ISRAEL TO
JUDGE OTHER NATIONS**



- AND GOD'S JUDGMENT
IS A GOOD THING!

1. GOD USED ISRAEL TO JUDGE OTHER NATIONS

- *Gen 15:13-16: Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve... And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete. (ESV)*
- *Deut 9:4 - After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, "The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness." No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is going to drive them out before you.*
- *Jos 5:13-15: Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.*

WHAT KIND OF SINS?

LEVITICUS 18

- v. 3: *You must not do as they do in Egypt, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices.*
- v. 6-23: incest, child sacrifice to Molech, sex with animals...
- v. 24-25: *Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the nations that I am going to drive out before you became defiled. Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin, and the land vomited out its inhabitants.*

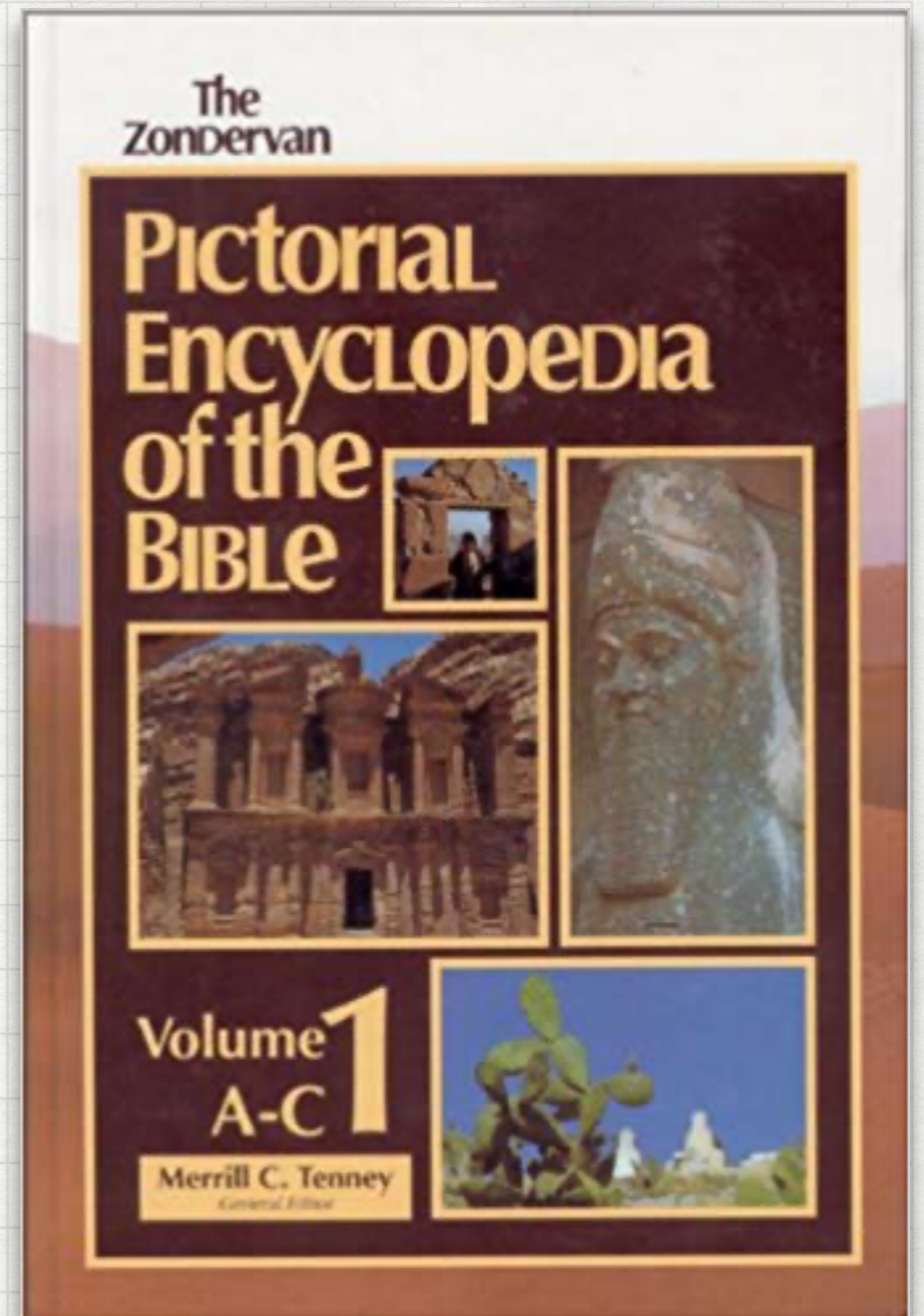




CHILD SACRIFICE TO MOLEK

- **Deut 12:31** - *You must not worship the LORD your God in their way, because in worshiping their gods, they do all kinds of detestable things the LORD hates. They even burn their sons and daughters in the fire as sacrifices to their gods.*
- **1 Ki 11:7** - *On a hill east of Jerusalem, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites.*
- **2 Ki 23:10** - *He desecrated Topheth, which was in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, so no one could use it to sacrifice their son or daughter in the fire to Molek.*
- **Isa 57:5** - *...you sacrifice your children in the ravines*
- **Jer 32:35** - *They built high places for Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molek, though I never commanded-- nor did it enter my mind-- that they should do such a detestable thing and so make Judah sin.*

“ By 1400 B.C. the Canaanite civilization and religion had become one of the weakest, most decadent, and most immoral cultures of the civilized world. ”



*Zondervan Pictorial
Encyclopedia of the Bible
(p. 707 and 895)*

DID GOD JUDGE PEOPLE WHO DID NOT HAVE THE LAW OF MOSES?

Damascus: ...because they have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron. (1:3)

Gaza: ...because they carried into exile a whole people to deliver them up to Edom. (1:6)

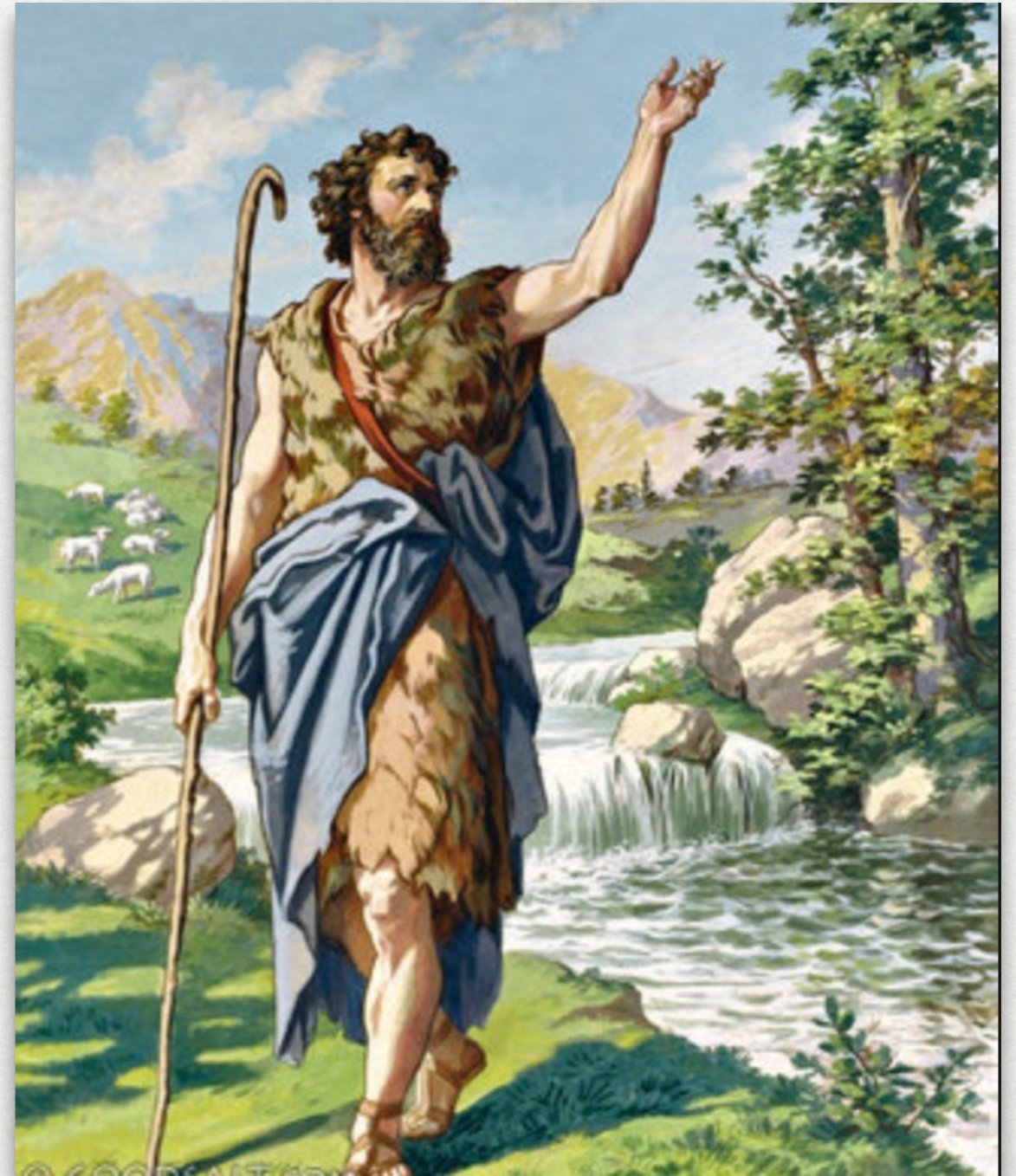
Tyre: ...because they delivered up a whole people to Edom, and did not remember the covenant of brotherhood. (1:9)

Edom: ...because he pursued his brother with the sword and cast off all pity, and his anger tore perpetually, and he kept his wrath forever. (1:11)

The Ammonites: ...because they have ripped open pregnant women in Gilead, that they might enlarge their border. (1:13)

Moab: ...Because he burned to ashes the bones of Edom's king (2:1)

AMOS 1-2





DID THEY GET ANY WARNINGS?



- Why did God harden pharaoh's heart so that there would be 10 plagues in Egypt?
 - *"Pharaoh will not listen to you, that my wonders may be multiplied in the land of Egypt." (Ex 11:9)*
 - *...to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. (Ex 9:16)*
- **Rahab in Jos 2:8-11:** *"I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og... And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath."*
- **Jos 5:1** - *As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.*

NAHUM

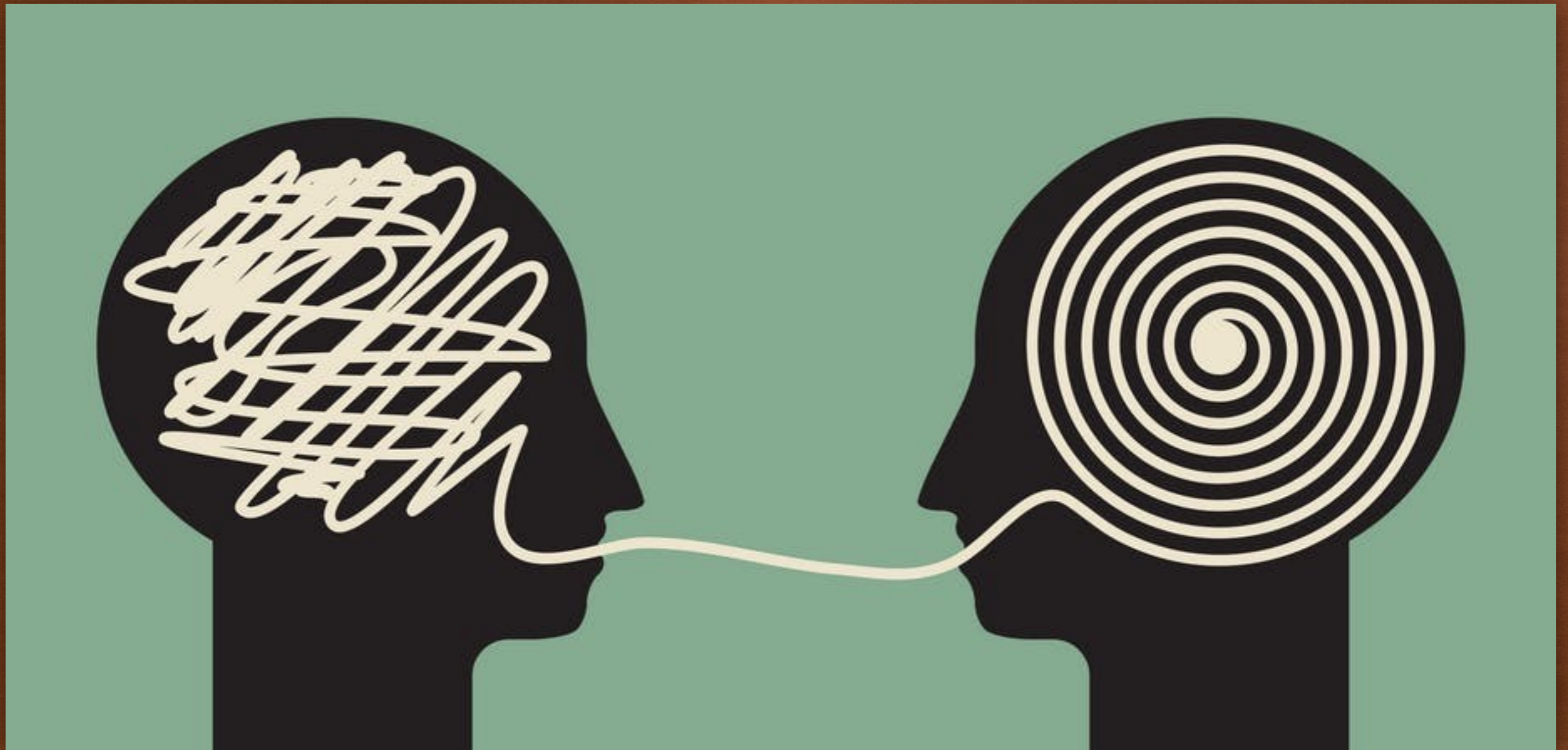
- 1:3 - *The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty.*
- 1:7 - *The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.*
- 1:15 - *Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfill your vows, for never again shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off.*
- 3:1 - *Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder-- no end to the prey!*
- 3:7 - *And all who look at you will shrink from you and say, "Wasted is Nineveh; who will grieve for her?" Where shall I seek comforters for you?*
- 3:10 - *...her [Thebes] infants were dashed in pieces at the head of every street...*
- 3:19 - *All who hear the news about you clap their hands over you. For upon whom has not come your unceasing evil?*

2. IT WAS NOT
"GENOCIDE"

2. IT WAS NOT "GENOCIDE"

- Lev 18:25 - *Even the land was defiled; so I punished it for its sin...*
- Deut 20:17-18: *Completely destroy them... as the LORD your God has commanded you. Otherwise, they will teach you to follow all the detestable things they do in worshiping their gods, and you will sin against the LORD your God.*
- Lev 18:27-28: *for all these things were done by the people who lived in the land before you, and the land became defiled. And if you defile the land, it will vomit you out as it vomited out the nations that were before you.*
- Ex 12:38 - *"A mixed multitude also went up with them... (Num 11:4)*
- God's salvation includes all nations (Gen 12:3)
- It was about destroying Canaanite religion so that Israel would be a holy nation - so that the Messiah could come from them with salvation to all nations.

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE



3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

A. "MILITARY EXAGGERATIONS"

- *1 Sam 15:2-3: I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey. (ESV)*
 - *Deut 25:17-18: Remember what the Amalekites did to you along the way when you came out of Egypt. When you were weary and worn out, they met you on your journey and attacked all who were lagging behind; they had no fear of God.*
- *1 Sam 15:8-9: He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. But Saul and the army spared Agag...*
- *1 Sam 15:33 - Samuel put Agag to death.*
- *The math: "All" minus "all but Agag" minus Agag = 0*
- *1 Sam 27:8 - Now David and his men went up and made raids against the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites...*

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

A. "MILITARY EXAGGERATIONS"

- *Deut 20:16 - But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes...*
- *Jos 11:14 - And all the spoil of these cities [e.g. Dor, v. 2] and the livestock, the people of Israel took for their plunder. But every person they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed.*
- *Jos 11:15 - Just as the LORD had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.*
- *Judg 1:27 - But Manasseh did not drive out the people of Beth Shan or Taanach or Dor...*

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

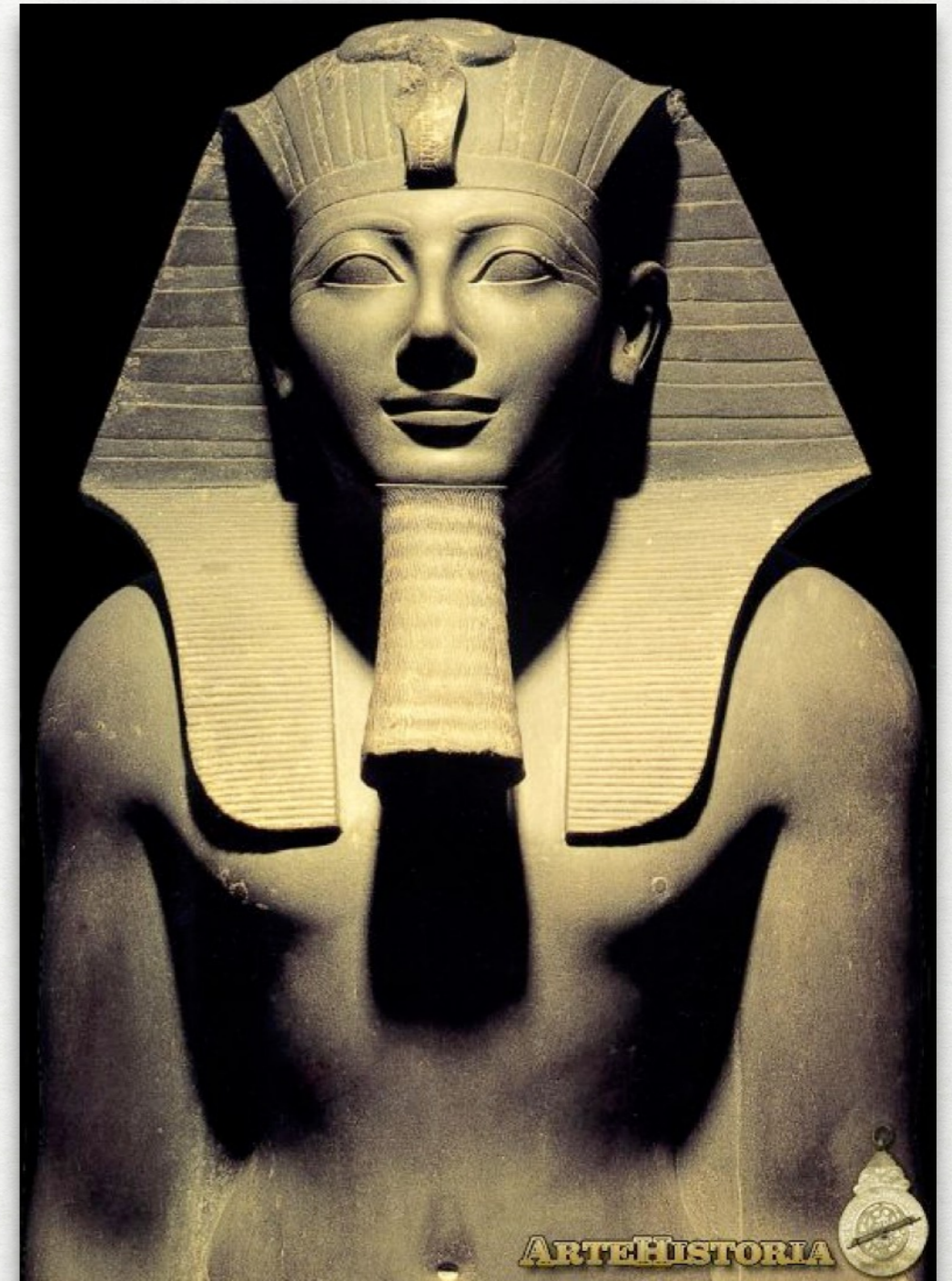
A. "MILITARY EXAGGERATIONS"

- *Jos 10:20 - So Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely...*
 - *... but a few survivors managed to reach their fortified cities.*
- *Jos 11:21-22: At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns. No Anakites were left in Israelite territory;*
 - *...only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.*
- *Jos 11:23 - So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.*
 - *Jos 13:1 - Now Joshua was old and advanced in years, and the LORD said to him, "You are old and advanced in years, and there remains yet very much land to possess.*
- *1 Sam 30:17 - David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away,*
 - *...except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled.*

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

A. "MILITARY EXAGGERATIONS"

- Pharaoh Thutmose III (15th cent. BC):
"The numerous army of Mitanni was overthrown within the hour, annihilated totally, like those (now) not existent."
 - Mitanni's army lived on for about a century
- Pharaoh Merneptah (ca. 1210 BC): *"Israel is wasted, his seed is not."* (time of the judges)
- King Mesha of Moab wrote in 840-830 BC:
"Israel has utterly perished for always."
 - The Northern kingdom Israel was taken by the Assyrians in 722 BC.



3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

EX 23:23-33

WHAT IS GOD COMMANDING THEM?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING WILL HAPPEN?

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

Ex 23:23-33

My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out. 24 Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces. 25 Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, 26 and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span. 27 "I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies turn their backs and run. 28 I will send the hornet ahead of you to drive the Hivites, Canaanites and Hittites out of your way. 29 But I will not drive them out in a single year, because the land would become desolate and the wild animals too numerous for you. 30 Little by little I will drive them out before you, until you have increased enough to take possession of the land. 31 "I will establish your borders from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the desert to the Euphrates River. I will give into your hands the people who live in the land, and you will drive them out before you. 32 Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods. 33 Do not let them live in your land or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you."

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

B. TWO CATEGORIES OF EXPRESSIONS

Ex 23:23-33

I will **wipe them out** (v. 23)

I will make all your enemies **turn their backs and run** (v. 27)

I will send the hornet ahead of you **to drive [them] out of your way** (v. 28)

But I will not **drive them out** in a single year (v. 29)

Little by little I will **drive them out** before you (v. 30)

You will **drive them out** before you (v. 31)

Do not let them **live in your land** (v. 33)

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

B. TWO CATEGORIES OF EXPRESSIONS

Deut 7:20-26

Compare this passage to Ex 23:23-33.

What differences do you see?

How should we think about this?

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

B. TWO CATEGORIES OF EXPRESSIONS

Deut 7:20-26

Moreover, the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until even the survivors who hide from you have perished. 21 Do not be terrified by them, for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God. 22 The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you. 23 But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great confusion until they are destroyed. 24 He will give their kings into your hand, and you will wipe out their names from under heaven. No one will be able to stand up against you; you will destroy them. 25 The images of their gods you are to burn in the fire. Do not covet the silver and gold on them, and do not take it for yourselves, or you will be ensnared by it, for it is detestable to the LORD your God. 26 Do not bring a detestable thing into your house or you, like it, will be set apart for destruction. Regard it as vile and utterly detest it, for it is set apart for destruction.

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

B. TWO CATEGORIES OF EXPRESSIONS

Deut 7:22

The LORD your God will drive out those nations before you, little by little. You will not be allowed to eliminate them all at once, or the wild animals will multiply around you.

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

B. TWO CATEGORIES OF EXPRESSIONS

Ex 23:23-33

"I will send my terror ahead of you and throw into confusion every nation you encounter. I will make all your enemies **turn their backs and run.**

I will send the hornet ahead of you **to drive [them] out of your way.**

Deut 7:20-26

But the LORD your God will deliver them over to you, throwing them into great confusion **until they are destroyed.**

Moreover, the LORD your God will send the hornet among them until even the survivors who hide from you **have perished.**

3. LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND GENRE

B. TWO CATEGORIES OF EXPRESSIONS

- "Drive out" is used 3 times as often as "destroy", so the point seems to be to drive the people groups out.
- This can reflect that:
 - 1) They were wiped out from the land and not from the earth.
 - 2) The nations were destroyed, while the individuals were driven out.
- Therefore the judgment on the Amalekites can come many generations later (from Ex 17 to 1 Sam 15 = ca. 400 years). It was not judgment on the individuals, but on the nation. The Amalekites would not exist anymore as a people.
- The texts talks more about driving the people groups out of the land, even though this happened through wars with people dying.

NOT THE ONLY TIME GOD DID SUCH THINGS

Deut 2:20-23

(That too was considered a land of the Rephaites, who used to live there; but the Ammonites called them Zamzummites. 21 They were a people strong and numerous, and as tall as the Anakites. The LORD destroyed them from before the Ammonites, who drove them out and settled in their place. 22 The LORD had done the same for the descendants of Esau, who lived in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites from before them. They drove them out and have lived in their place to this day. 23 And as for the Avvites who lived in villages as far as Gaza, the Caphtorites coming out from Caphtor destroyed them and settled in their place.)

INTERPRETATIONS?

EXAMPLE: SAUL'S DEATH

- 1 Chr 10:1-6: Now the Philistines fought against Israel; the Israelites fled before them, and many fell dead on Mount Gilboa. 2 The Philistines were in hot pursuit of Saul and his sons, and they killed his sons Jonathan, Abinadab and Malki-Shua. 3 The fighting grew fierce around Saul, and when the archers overtook him, they wounded him. 4 Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword and run me through, or these uncircumcised fellows will come and abuse me." But his armor-bearer was terrified and would not do it; so Saul took his own sword and fell on it. 5 When the armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he too fell on his sword and died. 6 So Saul and his three sons died, and all his house died together.
- v. 14: **So the LORD put him to death and turned the kingdom over to David son of Jesse.**

1. GOD USED ISRAEL TO JUDGE SIN

2. THEREFORE THIS WAS NOT
"GENOCIDE"

3. BUT MOSTLY DRIVING OUT PEOPLE
GROUPS

THE OT WARS POINT FORWARD TO JESUS
RETURNING TO JUDGE THE WORLD AND
END ALL EVIL.

GOD'S STORY CONTINUES IN THE NT,
WHERE WE SEE THAT EVEN THESE WARS
HAD AS THEIR ULTIMATE GOAL TO BRING
SALVATION TO ALL NATIONS.

GOD IS NOT "LOVING BUT ALSO JUDGE".
IT IS BECAUSE HE IS LOVING THAT HE
ACTS THIS WAY IN THE OT.