

Three Reasons God Commanded Israel to Kill

February 18, 2024

Deuteronomy 20:16-17, *“Only in the cities of these peoples that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, you shall not leave alive anything that breathes. ¹⁷ But you shall utterly destroy them, the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, as the Lord your God has commanded you.”*

1 Samuel 15:2-3, *“Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel, how he set himself against him on the way while he was coming up from Egypt. ³ Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel, and donkey.’”*

Deuteronomy 20:10, *“When you approach a city to fight against it, you shall offer it terms of peace.”*

Deuteronomy 20:11-14, *“Then all the people who are found in it shall become your forced labor and shall serve you. ¹² However, if it does not make peace with you, but makes war against you, then you shall besiege it. ¹³ When the Lord your God gives it into your hand, you shall strike all the men in it with the edge of the sword. ¹⁴ Only the women and the children and the animals and all that is in the city, all its spoil, you shall take as booty for yourself; and you shall use the spoil of your enemies which the Lord your God has given you.”*

1. To Judge the Canaanites for their Abominations

Leviticus 18:2-5, *“I am the Lord Your God. ³ You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you. ⁴ You are to perform My judgments and keep My statutes, to live in accord with them; I am the Lord your God. ⁵ A man may live if he does them; I am the Lord.”*

Leviticus 18:21, *“You shall not give any of your babies to Molech.”*

Deuteronomy 18:10, *“There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer.”*

Leviticus 18:22-23, *“You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female, it is an abomination. ²³ Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion.”*

Deuteronomy 18:29, *“Whoever does any of these abominations, shall be cut off from among their people.”*

Joshua 2:10-11, *“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, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹ When we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”*

1 Samuel 15:23, *“Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.”*

2. To Eliminate Idolatry & Compromise

Deuteronomy 20:17-18, *“You shall utterly destroy the Hittite and the Amorite, the Canaanite and the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, as the Lord your God has commanded you, ¹⁸ so that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things which they have done for their gods, so that you would sin against the Lord your God.”*

Judges 2:2-3, *“You have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this? ³ Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ ”*

3. To Prevent Future Problems

1 Samuel 15:2-3, *“Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I will punish Amalek for what he did to Israel. ³ Now go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel, and donkey.’ ”*

1 Samuel 15:20, *“Saul said to Samuel, ‘I did obey the voice of the Lord, and went on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and have brought back Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.’ ”*

1 Samuel 30:1-2, *“When David and his men came to Ziklag, the Amalekites had made a raid, and had overthrown Ziklag and burned it with fire; ² and they took captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great, without killing anyone, and carried them off and went their way.”*