



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 051 - Don't Worry, We'll Get Around To It Joshua 13:1-13

The conquest of the Promised Land recorded in Joshua raises a sticky question. If God is full of grace, love, and compassion, then what about His concern for the Canaanites? Why would He command Israel to conquer the whole land and drive out and destroy the Canaanites?

- What answer would you give to someone's charge that the God of the Old Testament is evil?

In Genesis 15:13-14 God told Abraham that Israel would be slaves in Egypt. Then in verse 16 He explained why they would be in captivity so long before being able to enter the Promised Land. "And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." This "iniquity" included Baal worship.

In grace and mercy God had sent three generations of preachers (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) to the Canaanites. Then He graciously waited another four generations, but the Canaanites still clung to Baal, and even waged war against the armies of Israel.

- So *who* was ultimately responsible for the death of so many Canaanites?
- If the Canaanites had rejected their false gods and worshipped the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, how might the story of Joshua been different?

In Joshua 23:1-13, God warned Israel not to mix with the Canaanites or learn the worship of their false gods. We would also do well to be careful how we *mix* with the unbelievers around us.

- How do you decide which people will be your close friends and how close you will get to them?
- How can we monitor how much influence they are having on us?

God calls us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth, which requires us to associate and be a strong influence on unbelievers. Yet He warns us against mixing with them and being influenced by them.

- How can we have meaningful relationships with unbelieving people and still maintain the purity of our faith at the same time?