

STUDY NOTES

NOT MY GOD

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Is God Genocidal?" on 10/14/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: READ SCRIPTURE THROUGHOUT HARD TRUTHS ABOUT GOD

Atheist Richard Dawkins describes God as such: "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."

Is God those things that Dawkins describes? The truth is that God does order the death of people, including children, and whole people groups in the Bible; God does strike people with plagues; and God does ordain the death of His own son. But why? Before we answer that, we need to start with two basic truths about God.

- 1) Everything is God's possession because He created all of it. **Read Isaiah 45:18.**
- 2) God is perfectly good and just. **Read 1 John 1:5.**

- *Imagine that you were completely good. What would you do to protect something that you created?*

SIN, DEATH, AND RULES FOR THE KINGDOM

Because God is perfectly good and just, when He created humanity He gave some boundaries to Adam and Eve to protect them from what wasn't good. He told them not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil or else they would bring sin into the world and ultimately die. They ate, and sin and death entered the world. Ultimately, rebirth was needed. God chose to create a plan for rebirth by creating a people that would represent Him on earth. He created some rules for that people group, so that they would find their ultimate fulfillment in God. **Read Exodus 20:1-3.**

- *If God is perfectly good—and humanity is His creation—why does it make sense that God puts boundaries in for humanity's own good?*

WHY WOULD GOD DO THIS?

So why did a good and just God order the death of some people in the Old Testament? **Read Deuteronomy 12:29-32 and 13:6-11.** There is no way around it. It is hard to read about this; however, we see just how serious a good and just God views sin.

- *How do these passages show you that God views sin so seriously? What is your reaction to these passages?*

PUNISHMENT ON JESUS

Read Romans 6:23. The overall effects of sin being in the world mean that we are all sinners, and the consequence of sin is death. After we die, we will be judged by God whether or not we placed our faith in Him. He is the ultimate judge. **Read Acts 10:42-43.**

- *Why would we want God to be the ultimate judge, and not a human?*

God has to punish sin. However, God loves us so much that He punished His own Son for our sin. Jesus took the punishment for us on the cross, so that we could be adopted into God's family and receive the inheritance of being a child of God.

God judged all people and put the punishment of His Son for our sake.

- *How does God's plan for salvation satisfy His goodness, justice, and His love for us?*
- *What do you learn about God's love by viewing Jesus's death in light of how seriously God views sin?*
- *Pray with each other to see sin through both God's justice and His love.*

SCRIPTURE FOR REFERENCE

God Created All:

Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens, who formed the earth and made it: "I am the Lord, and there is no other."

God is perfectly Good and Just:

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Fall - God gives man a choice whether to listen to and obey Him.

Gen 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Curse Noah, has sons Shem, Hamm (Canaan) and Japheth - pronounced a curse for disobedience

Genesis 9:25 he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers." 26 He also said, "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem (from Shem descends Abram); and let Canaan be his servant.

Genesis 12 - Abraham chosen:

Genesis 18:19 For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice, so that the Lord may bring to Abraham what he has promised him."

Gives rules for the kingdom

Exodus 20:1 And God spoke all these words, saying, 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 You shall have no other gods before me."

God then tells his people how to apply this commandment specifically when encountering those who worship false Gods:

Deuteronomy 12:29 "When the Lord your God cuts off before you the nations whom you go in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and dwell in their land, 30 take

care that you be not ensnared to follow them, after they have been destroyed before you, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods?—that I also may do the same.' 31 You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abominable thing that the Lord hates they have done for their gods, for they even burn their sons and their daughters in the fire to their gods. 32 "Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

God then tells his people how to apply this commandment specifically when encountering those in the community who disobey God:

13:6 "If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which neither you nor your fathers have known, 7 some of the gods of the peoples who are around you, whether near you or far off from you, from the one end of the earth to the other, 8 you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him. 9 But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. 10 You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 11 And all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you.

Commandments applied:

Exodus 12:29 At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. 30 And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead.

God commanded His people to do the same:

Summarize: Joshua 6:16 Jerico: "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! 17 The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. Keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Or you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. 19 All the silver and gold and bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and go into his treasury

20 When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man

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.

Why would God do this?

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death,

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened

Jesus in the New Testament:

Matthew 22: 37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. (If there's anything left, do whatever you want to with it. :))

Acts 5—Ananias and Sapphira

Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

Can God Judge sin? He does and then pardons them through Jesus!

Acts 10:42 "And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ...43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Hebrews 11:31 "By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient."