

God's Orders to Kill

Commentary for November 13, 2006 — Should We Always Obey God?

QUESTION: *God's ways are past finding out ... a true statement from Ecclesiastes worth remembering! With study we are able to find out many things...*

I am very surprised to see your written statement in this months newsletter regarding disobeying God's order to destroy men women and children had it been given you instead of Joshua or Moses ... it shows a lack of understanding that surprises me on your part as I am sure you know we are to walk by faith and not by sight.

The thing is, from my vantage and study that most people do not realize is that the orders to kill those people was because they were descendants of the fallen angels, rephaim or giants, gibborim, men of renown ... these are the only times God has given permission to kill and eradicate these transhuman beings ... most all the Hittites, and all the tribes ending in "ites." I am pretty shocked that you do not acknowledge this information.

ANSWER: You are mistaken on most every point. First, I am unclear whether your reference is to Ecclesiastes 3:11 or 8:17. Perhaps you are conflating the two verses:

"He has made every thing beautiful in his time: also he has set the world [olam, the age] in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end.

• *Ecclesiastes 3:11*

"Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it."

• *Ecclesiastes 8:17*

God's works are a mystery to human beings unless God reveals the reason and purpose for His works to us. He has done so through His Word, both through the actions, life, death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and through His written Word, the Bible.

Second, I did not write what you refer to in the Newsletter. Dr. Martin wrote about disobeying God's orders in his article "[Judgment on God and Man](#)." My role was to transcribe and edit the written material, converting it to an article that presents fully and perhaps clarifies Dr. Martin's intended meaning.

Third, Dr. Martin did (and I am determined to) walk by faith. Your implication is that we should trust God's command and do explicitly as He says. Indeed we should do so,

but I am no longer required to obey the requirements imposed by a schoolmaster (Galatians 3:24–25). The Law of Moses is that schoolmaster, which included the orders by God to kill men, women, children, and animals of the Canaanites and other peoples. God's latest and superseding revelation of the Mystery are what we should obey at the present time. In no way would God require anyone at this time to do anything like what He required Israel to do in the time of Moses and Joshua.

Abraham was given more information about God and His requirements than was Noah and the other post-flood people. The revelation God gave to Abraham was different from the Mosaic covenant, which was given by angels. The Mosaic Covenant was itself less advanced than the New Covenant given by Christ. The New Covenant of Christ was less advanced than and inferior to the Mystery given to Paul, John, Peter, and others which was the most advanced and final revelation. The Mystery was hidden and unknown even to angels until it was revealed to them.

Read (free online if you have not already purchased the printed book) Dr. Martin's *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine* (Portland, OR: ASK Publications, 2001), especially the chapters: "[Chapter 3, Progressive Revelation](#)" and "[Chapter 4, The Conclusion of the Mosaic System](#)" which notes the deficiencies (yes, deficiencies, and negative teaching!) of Christ's teaching compared to the later revelation of the Mystery. The Mystery is explained in "[Chapter 24, Our Destiny, the Final Revelation of God,](#)" and in later chapters.

Regarding the "**descendants of the fallen angels**" that you mention, read Dr. Martin's research on this subject "[Chapter 28, Who Are the Sons of God.](#)" You will see that the entities in Genesis chapter 6 that married women to produce monstrous giants were not angels! It is impossible for them to be so according to Hebrews chapter 1.

The eruption of hybrid descendants discussed in Genesis chapter 6 ("**and also after that,**" Genesis 6:4) had a limited relationship to the peoples in Canaan. Some of the people in Canaan and the lands around them were the giants during the time of the Exodus (Og of Bashan) and even to the time of David (Goliath and his family). They were descendants of forbidden marriages, but certainly not all or even the majority. And yes, due to the nature of the religion of idolatry, eventually the moral and genetic pollution would have spread to all the populations of the peoples of Canaan, and perhaps to all the earth, as it did just before the flood.

That being said, the main reason for God's destruction was because of their sins and evil. This was true for

- the pre-flood people (Genesis 6:5–7);
- Sodom, Gomorrah, and the cities of the plain (Genesis 18:20); and
- the people of Canaan (Deuteronomy 9:4).

Therefore, the strange humans/nonhuman matings which produced giant offspring are only one of the reasons God ordered Israel to exterminate those peoples. It curtailed the trend to pollute humanity because of their "intercourse" (in all senses of the term) with anything spirit, human, or animal. Such was the true nature of idolatry during that period in history.

God originally offered to drive out the peoples of Canaan for the people of Israel. They could have just watched while God drove them out (Exodus 23:20–33), as He did at the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:14, 25, 22:22–31; Deuteronomy 1:30, 3:22).

You specifically mention the Hittites. Do you really think King David would have had Hittites as part of his bodyguard, as some of his mighty men (Uriah the Hittite, 2 Samuel 11:3–12:26, 23:39; 1 Chronicles 11:41, and Ahimelech, 1 Samuel 26:6) if they had been a descendant of hybrids like Goliath and his family? No. We can have confidence that David and all of Israel correctly understood the nature and status of all the giant peoples that you mention (and some you did not mention). Not all Hittites were of that line, any more than all Canaanites were. Some were, but not all.

As a reminder to everyone, I regret recommending specific chapters in *Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*, simply because the chapters in the book were designed to be read in order. However, these chapters of Dr. Martin's excellent book do contain the best information relevant to your questions.

To conclude, the evils of idolatry are horrific and by no means to be minimized, not in ancient times or in modern times. God took idolatry very seriously. There is a direct relationship between idolatry and the marriages that took place between human women and the sons of God discussed in Genesis chapter 6. Most of the worst punishments from God upon Israel came about because of idolatry.

I shall write more on this subject in the future, after I present an excellent article on idolatry by Dr. Martin.

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