

## THE NEPHILIM

### “Introduction: Why Did God Command Genocide?”

If you have arrived at this text from our web site, some explanation is in order. This series was birthed from a question my brother asked me. I had done some studying to answer his question and had decided to share some of my findings with the church. I found myself in a teaching series without having seriously planned to teach one. Consequently, my text files for the first couple of teachings are not in their usual order. What follows are some of the notes I jotted down for the first teaching. More information is on audio than is on paper. If you want a much fuller treatment of this subject, check out Timothy Keyes’ audio series “As in the Days of Noah.” In manner of comparison, our series would be like the seed, Tim’s is like the full grown plant. A book of the same title by him is forthcoming. You can find his resources at [www.excelministries.net](http://www.excelministries.net) God bless you.

The following verses were used in the introduction teaching, "Why Did God Command Genocide?"-

Deut 20:10-18

- 10 When you march up to attack a city, make its people an offer of peace.
- 11 If they accept and open their gates, all the people in it shall be subject to forced labor and shall work for you.
- 12 If they refuse to make peace and they engage you in battle, lay siege to that city.
- 13 When the LORD your God delivers it into your hand, put to the sword all the men in it.
- 14 As for the women, the children, the livestock and everything else in the city, you may take these as plunder for yourselves. And you may use the plunder the LORD your God gives you from your enemies.
- 15 This is how you are to treat all the cities that are at a distance from you and do not belong to the nations nearby.
- 16 However, in the cities of the nations the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes.
- 17 Completely destroy them-- the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites-- as the LORD your God has commanded you.
- 18 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. (NIV)

*Though verse 18 gives us one clear reason for the eradication of a whole people group, it doesn't answer the full question of "why genocide?" What possible threat and enticement to idolatry could a 3-month-old child pose to a grown Israelite?*

Josh 10:40-43

- 40 So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the LORD, the God of Israel, had commanded.
- 41 Joshua subdued them from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon.

42 All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.

43 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal. (NIV)

*This seems on the face of it a rather harsh policy of conquest, complete annihilation of the enemy.*

Josh 11:14-22 (NIV)

14 The Israelites carried off for themselves all the plunder and livestock of these cities, but all the people they put to the sword until they completely destroyed them, not sparing anyone that breathed.

15 As the LORD commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did it; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.

16 So Joshua took this entire land: the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah and the mountains of Israel with their foothills,

17 from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and struck them down, putting them to death.

18 Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time.

19 Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle.

20 For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

21 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.

22 No **Anakites** were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.