

1/29/23

Sun Pm

## “Show No Mercy”

### Deuteronomy 7

As Israel goes in to possess the land that the Lord was giving to them, the Lord will be the One to give them the victory over 7 nations. He defeats them so that they no longer have power over Israel.

Then He gave them some seemingly harsh and shocking instruction: “Destroy them completely” (v2, 16). This sounds merciless coming from a merciful God. What’s going on?

- 1) The Lord is just. He is using Israel to bring judgement on the nations. The Lord knows fully and is fully justified in this. He needs no defending.
- 2) The Lord is telling Israel to deal ruthlessly with the defeated foe for a specific reason. The remnant was a certain avenue of temptation for Israel. Their power over Israel was broken, but their influence remained.

What does this have to do with us? What application does this have? Kill your enemies?

Nope. The specific command was to a specific nation regarding other specific nations. And it is not confirmed for us as a command in the rest of the scriptures. Actually, just the opposite is true – love your enemies, etc. (Though, there is a legit argument for a government to carry out capital punishment – Rom 13, etc.)

\*But the principle to be ruthless with avenues of temptation is throughout the scriptures...and that is the personal application we should get from this passage.

#### OT Illustration

Numbers 22-24; 31:15-16

#### NT Teaching

Romans 6:5-7; 2 Cor 5:17; Romans 6:8-14

Matthew 18:7-9

## Application

If we are in Christ, we have been made alive in Him. The penalty of sin has been paid and the power of sin over us has been broken...but the influence remains. It no longer has dominion over us, but we can still choose it. And if we do, it still has consequences.

So, we must do what we can to preemptively eliminate avenues of temptation.

(Like the military preemptively attacks and destroys a bridge that the enemy would use en route to attack)

Alcohol or Tobacco – proximity to it? Or even commercials or ads?

Fear – movies, tv shows or books?

Worry – news?

Laziness/wasting time – a certain chair we sit in? A device we pick up?

Cheating/lying – sitting by a certain person in class? Doing your own taxes?

Lust or covetousness – What do you put before your eyes? Screens, billboards, other media? Raffles?

The people we hang out with; places we go to

Where are you likely to face temptation? Where have you frequently encountered it in the past?

Whatever that avenue is, show no mercy!