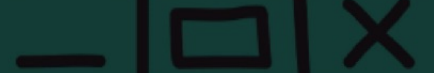




www.purposechurch.com



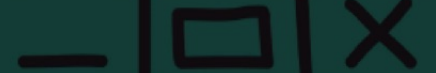
GREAT QUESTION #5:

**DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE
GENOCIDE, SLAVERY, AND
MISOGYNY?**





www.purposechurch.com

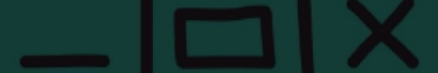


GREAT RESOURCES FOR GREAT QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD, FAITH, AND THE BIBLE

Sermons + Slides: purposechurch.com/greatquestion



www.purposechurch.com



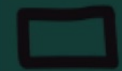
Q: DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE GENOCIDE?

A: *No! The Bible describes God's patience, mercy, and desire for the nations and Israel to return to Him and warns of their destruction if they don't. In a few rare specific moments, God commanded Israel or allowed other nations to enact His judgment on unrepentant people and for the protection of the human race from self-extermination.*





www.purposechurch.com



Two Ways to Explain Old Testament Violence That *AREN'T* Satisfying...

- 1. The No Apology Approach** - God did it. He is God and He can do anything He wants, including killing people.
- 2. The Bible Is Wrong Approach** - God didn't command the violence or do any of it. The Scriptures have the stories in it, but the Israelites and those who wrote the stories were mistaken.



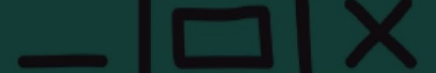


www.purposechurch.com



**MAKING SENSE OF GENOCIDAL
PASSAGES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT...**





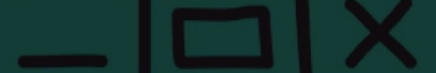
1. God was judging unrepentant sin...

⁴After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, "The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness." No, **it is on account of the wickedness of these nations** that the LORD is going to drive them out before you.

Deuteronomy 9:4



www.purposechurch.com

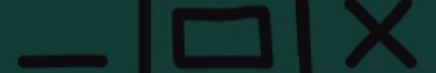


"Molech was a Canaanite underworld deity represented as an upright, bull headed idol with a human body in whose belly a fire was stoked and in whose arms a child was placed to be burnt to death. It was not just unwanted children who were sacrificed. Plutarch (a Greek writer and philosopher from the first century) reported that during Phoenician (Canaanite) sacrifices, the whole area before the statue was filled with a loud noise of flutes and drums so that the cries and wailing should not reach the ears of the people."

- Clay Jones, Old Testament and Apologetics scholar



www.purposechurch.com



DISCUSS WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:

How does the idea of God judging unrepentant evil after patience and warning change (or not change) your perspective about God?



www.purposechurch.com



2. God had shown incredible patience towards the sinful nations...

³The LORD is slow to anger but great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished...

Nahum 1:3



www.purposechurch.com

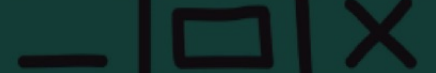


“There are times when God acts in judgment leading to death. But the people groups that were judged had received warning after warning. God is patient and compassionate and forgiving, but there is a limit to his patience. He is also just and has promised to uphold the cause of justice and punish those who do wrong, defending those who are innocent. God is not slow to love, but he is slow to anger. And as we see throughout the Bible, God does not express anger, but it is an outflow of his just love and protection—not a vindictive and selfish anger, the type human beings are prone to display.”

- Dan Kimball



www.purposechurch.com



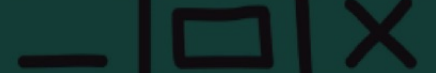
3. God's goal was emptying the cities, not total annihilation...

*³The LORD listened to Israel's plea and gave the Canaanites over to them. They **completely destroyed** them and their towns; so the place was named Hormah.*

Numbers 21:3

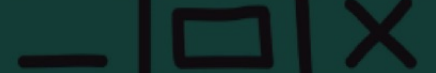


www.purposechurch.com



“Phrases like ‘completely destroy’ (often the Hebrew words herem or ban, which are translated into English as ‘completely destroy’) didn’t actually mean completely destroy as we think of it today. The goal of such battles was for the cities to be emptied and their identities in that place destroyed.”

- Paul Copan, Old Testament scholar and author of *Is God a Moral Monster?*



4. God's heart breaks at the death of the wicked and longs for their repentance...

²³Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

Ezekiel 18:23



www.purposechurch.com



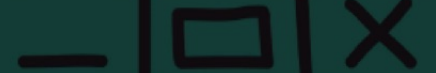
Q: DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE SLAVERY?

A: No! The Bible does not permit race based, chattel, unending slavery or the kidnapping or selling of people. The Bible allowed for the common cultural practice of indentured servitude (sometimes referred to as slavery) as a form of bankruptcy law to pay off outstanding debts.





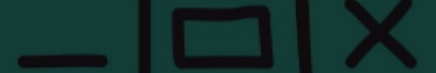
www.purposechurch.com



Slavery in the Ancient Near East and in America *was race based, chattel (ownership), unending slavery of kidnapped victims who were treated as property not as humans made in God's image. This is the kind of slavery Israel experienced under Pharaoh and Africans experienced here in America early in our country's history.*



www.purposechurch.com

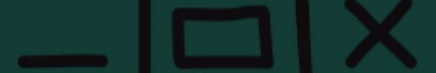


⁶*This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Gaza, even for four, I will not relent. Because she **took captive** whole communities **and sold** them to Edom,*

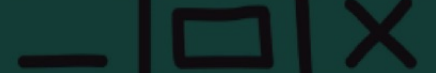
Amos 1:6



www.purposechurch.com



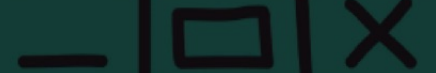
Slavery for Israel was a form of bankruptcy law where people became indentured servants to pay off their debts. This wasn't racially motivated nor did it involve kidnapping. In this way, Israel set an example for their world by valuing every person as an image bearer of God, even slave-servants.



Israel was generous towards their slave-servants

*¹²If any of your people—Hebrew men or women—sell themselves to you and serve you six years, **in the seventh year you must let them go free.** ¹³And when you release them, **do not send them away empty-handed.** ¹⁴Supply them liberally from your flock, your threshing floor and your winepress. Give to them as the LORD your God has blessed you. ¹⁵Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you. That is why I give you this command today.*

Deuteronomy 15:12-15



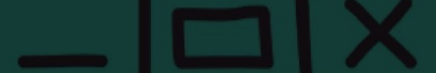
Israel treated their slave-servants justly

*²⁶“An owner who hits a male or female slave in the eye and destroys it must **let the slave go free to compensate for the eye.** ²⁷And an owner who knocks out the tooth of a male or female slave must **let the slave go free to compensate for the tooth.**”*

Exodus 21:26-27



www.purposechurch.com



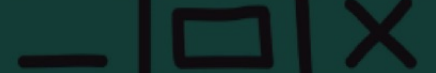
Israel showed compassion to runaway slave-servants

*¹⁵If a slave has taken refuge with you, **do not hand them over to their master.** ¹⁶Let them live among you wherever they like and in whatever town they choose. **Do not oppress them.***

Deuteronomy 23:15-16



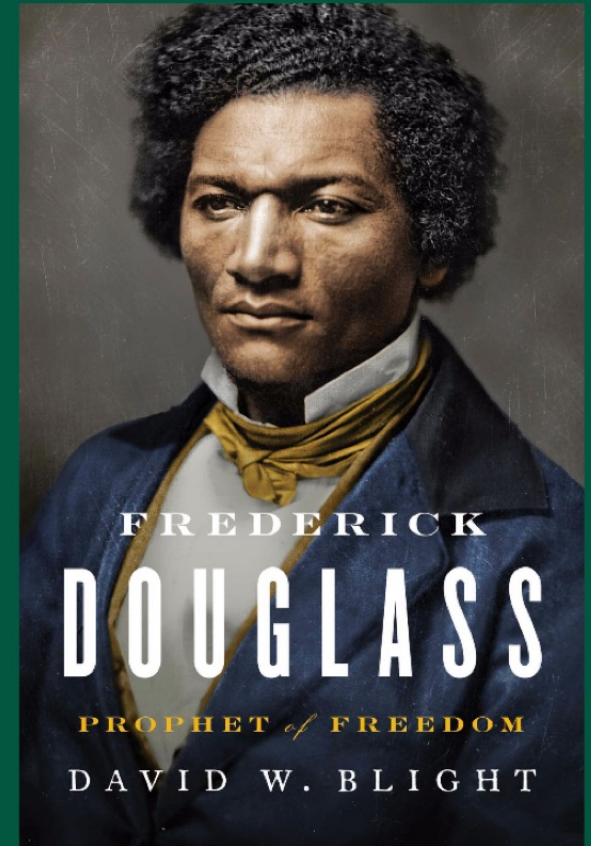
www.purposechurch.com



“Douglass was a victim of American slavery and became the ‘voice of his people’ and the ‘conscience of his nation’... Between the Christianity of this land and the Christianity of Christ, Douglass recognized the widest possible difference... The Bible gave Douglass language for justice, judgment, and redemption.”

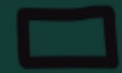
- David Blight

Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom





www.purposechurch.com



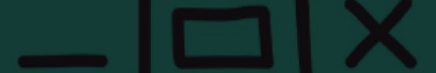
Q: DOES THE BIBLE CONDONE MISOGYNY?

A: *No! The Bible consistently elevates women though it was written in times when women were seen as property. The Bible communicates over and over that women are made in God's image, must be respected, are equal with men, and have purpose in God's story!*





www.purposechurch.com



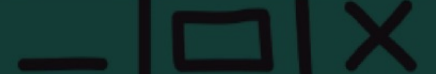
Women and men equally bear God's image

*²⁷So God created mankind in his own image, **in the image of God he created them; male and female** he created them.*

Genesis 1:27



www.purposechurch.com



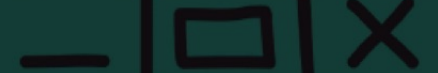
Women and men equally complement one another

*¹⁸The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a **helper suitable** for him."*

Genesis 2:18



www.purposechurch.com



English: helper

Hebrew: עֵזֶר (*ezer*)

Meaning: often used to describe God Himself, usually used in terms of divine assistance or military aid (Deuteronomy 33:29, Psalm 33:20, Hosea 13:9)

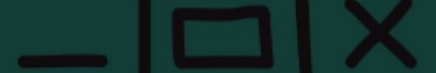
English: suitable

Hebrew: כְּנֶגְדּוֹ (*kenegdo*)

Meaning: like opposite and providing what is lacking

Note: A suitable helper "*ezer kenegdo*" is not a demeaning term but a dignifying one!





Are wives the only ones called to submit in marriage?

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
Ephesians 5:21-25



www.purposechurch.com



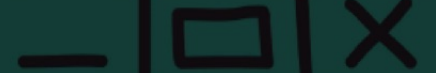
Is the Bible against women serving in the Church?

*⁷Greet Andronicus and **Junia**, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. **They are outstanding among the apostles**, and they were in Christ before I was.*

Romans 16:7

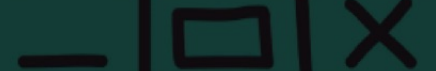


www.purposechurch.com



“Indeed, how great was the wisdom of this **woman** that she was thought **worthy of being called an apostle!**”

- John Chrysostom
347-407 AD, **native Greek speaker**, archbishop,
On Paul's Epistle to the Romans, Homily 31



What did Paul mean by women/wives remaining “silent in the churches”?

³⁴**Women** should remain **silent** in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but **must be in submission**, as the law says. ³⁵If they want to inquire about something, they should **ask their own husbands at home**; for it is **disgraceful** for a woman to speak in the church.

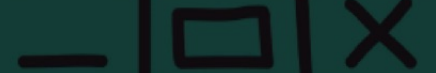
1 Corinthians 14:34-35

⁴**Every man who prays or prophesies** with his head covered dishonors his head. ⁵**But every woman who prays or prophesies** with her head uncovered dishonors her head—it is the same as having her head shaved.

1 Corinthians 11:4-5



www.purposechurch.com

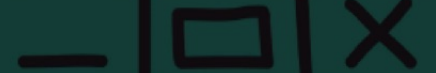


“Paul’s two comments about silence are actually consistent, then, with the story and plot of the Bible. **Women, who have always been gifted by God to speak for God and lead God’s people, were doing those things in Paul’s churches.** But women who had not yet learned the Bible or theology or had not yet learned to live a Christian life were not to become teachers until they had learned orthodox theology. What drives 1 Corinthians 14 is a principle that much of church tradition has nearly smothered when it comes to women: **‘learning precedes teaching.’”**

- Scot McKnight, New Testament scholar



www.purposechurch.com



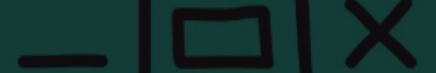
How can women and men partner to build God's Kingdom?

¹⁷“*In the **last days**, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your **sons and daughters** will **prophecy**, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.* ¹⁸*Even on my servants, both **men and women**, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and **they will prophecy**.*

Acts 2:17-18



www.purposechurch.com



“Christianity was unusually appealing to women because within the Christian subculture women enjoyed far higher status than did women in the Greco-Roman world at large. The early church attracted an unusual number of high-status women.”

- Rodney Stark, sociologist and historian

www.purposechurch.com

PURPOSE CHURCH 

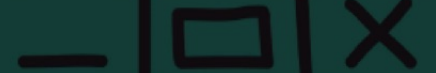
GREAT QUESTION

HOW THE BIBLE ADDRESSES OUR BIGGEST ISSUES WITH GOD | 





www.purposechurch.com



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK:

Write down 1-2 big questions you have about God, faith, or the Bible and spend one hour or more this week doing some research from trusted Christian sources to try and get faithful and confidence building answers. Then share what you learned with someone in your life.

For more life group, reflection, and discussion content, and to join or start a group, visit: purposechurch.com/groups