

## **JOSHUA 10:16-43 STUDY NOTES (5/15/22)**

**Joshua's Big Theme:** The Israelites are finally ready to enter into the land that God promised - that God is *gifting* to them - that is currently inhabited by enemy forces which need to be pushed out. Over the course of Joshua, they will learn what it means to be strong and courageous in the Lord as they follow God and trust Joshua in the scariest and most overwhelming of situations.

**Today's Context:** The Israelites finish the Bible from the beginning of Joshua 10, by putting the 5 Kings to death in a brutal and public way. This justice testifies both to God's removal of evil from the world, but also offers mercy to those who will respond in worship of Him.

### **Additional Study Notes:**

- God has waited patiently to judge these 5 Kings - the Kings of the Amorites (a people of Canaan). God promises the land of Canaan to Abraham in Genesis 15:16, but tells him they cannot yet take the land because the sin of the Amorites isn't yet wicked enough for total judgment. God has waited patiently for them to change their ways, and only now, hundreds of years later, do the Israelites actually move in.

### **For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):**

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request



# Discussion Questions

## CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Joshua 10:1-15? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

## TODAY'S TEXT

### **KNOWING God**

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: How have you seen different "tribes" or "groups" of people (like the Gibeonites or Amorites) continue to resurface in the story of Israel?

### **GROWING Together**

- (6) *\* If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (7) How does the harsh justice of this passage initially sit with you? Is it inspiring or concerning? Why do you think that is?
- (8) How do we trust God with judging our "enemies"? How do we stay aware in seeing and addressing evil in the world, while simultaneously trusting God to be sovereign over it?
- (9) How can seeing a brutal act of justice actually lead to mercy? Have you ever witnessed something so striking it moved you to change yourself for the better?
- (10) How does the justice placed upon Christ's shoulders free us? How does it help us to offer mercy to people we think should be condemned?
- (11) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

### **SHOWING God to Others**

- (12) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

## PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- (13) For next week, spend some time reading Joshua 11. What's interesting? What questions do you have?

## QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)

- (14) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (15) This is a difficult passage, how do you feel about the way the Israelites handled the kings? What does the word "justice" mean? How do you see God's justice play out here?
- (16) It is important that we not only see God as a loving God, but also see that he is a wise and just ruler. Does God give us justice when it comes to our sin? Who is the one who took on our justice? How can we share this truth with the people in our lives?