

## Spiritual Purity: The Goal of God's Justice

Joshua 11:16-23

(Summary of the Conquest of Canaan)

### I. God's Justice: God "hardened the hearts" of the Canaanites and Amorites, yet punished their sin because of their guilt (Joshua 11:20).

#### **Hearts Hardened by God and by Choice**

1. Pharaoh's heart was *hardened by God*, yet he *hardened his own heart* (Exodus 4:21; 8:15,32; 9:7,12; 10:1,20,27).
2. Today in all cultures God "*gives people over*" to sin who choose to *suppress the truth* about God (Romans 1:18-24).
3. In the Tribulation, those who *refuse to believe* the truth will be *given a delusion* by God (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12).

#### A. God was just to punish the Canaanites.

- They accumulated sin over generations (Genesis 15:16).
- They were judged for their immorality (Leviticus 18:24-28).
- God still judges sexual immorality (Hebrews 13:4).

#### B. A holy and just God is always holy and just when He punishes sin (Isaiah 6:3; Deuteronomy 32:4; Romans 2:2).

### II. Our Purity: God destroyed the Canaanites because He cared about their spiritual purity.

#### A. Purity of Influence: God wanted to keep Israel from intermarrying with Canaanites (Deuteronomy 7:1-4).

- The person we marry and our closest friends will influence us either toward God or sin (2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:7,8).

#### B. Purity of Devotion: God wanted Israel to avoid being snared by idolatry (Deuteronomy 7:16; 12:1-4; 20:17-18)

- We may need drastic changes in our surroundings to develop a holy lifestyle (2 Corinthians 7:1).