

*A NOTE ON KILLING THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND
BY THE WILL OF GOD!*

- This is the kind of action that bothers all of us and makes some people say “we can’t read that kind of thing anymore. Need to throw it all out.”

THREE THOUGHTS to give context about these passages of terror and slaughter

1. NO ROOM TO BE NAÏVE ABOUT EVIL

THERE WERE SOME REALLY BAD DUDES in those days!

- Child sacrifice & religious prostitution rampant;
- No jails; no rehab centers = dog eat dog world
kill your enemies before they killed you

Think: ISIS; Or Wild West (The Magnificent Seven!!) Or The Hunger Games *or countless other movies* → Not fiction but reality . . .

2. GOD “ACCOMMODATES”

God speaks to us – accommodates himself to us – *as we are*,
= our situation always permeated *by sin and imperfection & ignorance*
God doesn’t wait for us to repent before God comes to us . .
or reach a certain level of moral rectitude or knowledge

- **Jesus goes to eat in the home of Zacchaeus**
a thieving and cruel tax collector -- and people are furious
- **In Jesus’ story of the Prodigal Son . .**
the father runs to welcome his son home, no questions asked
and *the older brother* is furious . . as if to say:
Have you lost your moral marbles? Ignorant? He is immoral, and you
are letting him off the hook!

Be assured: another generation will look down on us -- no matter what progress
we make in matters of science or health or justice . . or . . . and say

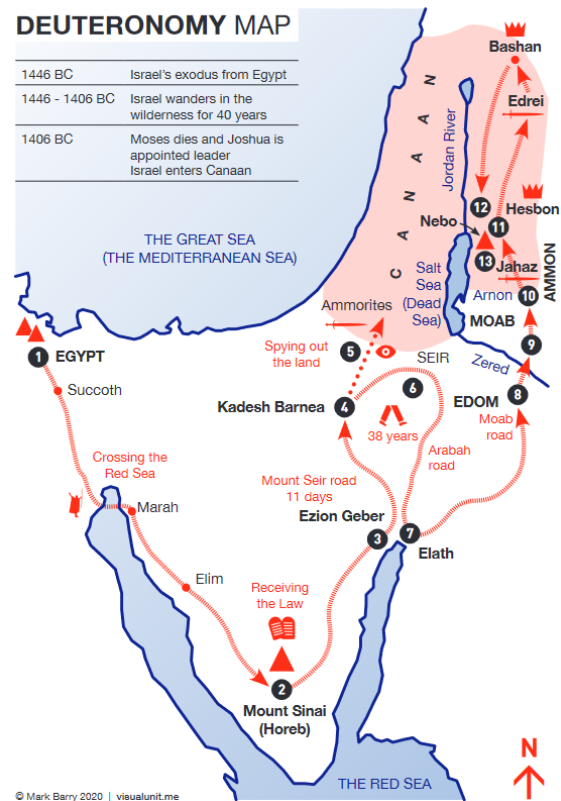
**“HOW COULD THEY DO THAT? HOW COULD THEY HAVE
THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS THE WILL OF GOD?”**

We’re all caught in the mire – there’s No room for self-righteousness

3. THE TEACHING OF JESUS “UPDATES”

- There’s progress in God’s revelation . .
- So NO – we DON’T do that kind of thing any more in the name of God
 - Love your Enemies!
 - Pray for them
 - Fight Evil – spiritually

INITIAL BACKGROUND



The Name of the Book → “Deuteronomy” means “2nd Law/2nd Teaching”

The Book takes the form of an extended speech of Moses . .
in which

- Moses stands at the edge of the promised land 40 years after the people have escaped from slavery in Egypt
- & repeats, tells for a second time, recaps much of the story of Israel’s travels and experiences, triumphs and failures, over those years

In much of the book, Moses’ Goal is

- to WARN God’s people that life is a perpetual struggle
- and to ENCOURAGE them to remain faithful . .

