

## THE JOSHUA PARADOX

Introduction – A paradox is true statements that lead to an apparent or real contradiction in logic or intuition. With Abraham we reflected on the God that needs nothing, but asks for everything.

A. The God who is terribly compassionate.

1. In the holocaust, people were killed because they were Jewish.
2. The Kosovo Campaign in Serbia was to protect the ethnically Albanian Muslim population.
3. What should we say about God's command to Joshua and Israel to exterminate the Canaanite population?

Deuteronomy 20:16-18

B. We must examine the historical and moral context of God's command to eliminate the Canaanites.

Genesis 15:12-16

Deuteronomy 12:29-31

C. God's compassion is expressed through the principle of justice. Without moral accountability and judgment that results in discipline or punishment, there would be no justice.

Exodus 34:6-7

D. Like a good farmer, God displays patience in His handling of final justice.

Matthew 13:24-30

Conclusion – God balances compassionate love with true justice in His commands and actions.

2 Peter 3:9-10