

NWC Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 1/29/12

When God says "YES"

Deut. 2.24-3.22

Focus: *On calling the church to actively trust and obey God, who often is not as we would expect Him to be (and to address the difficult passages in the text in a way that strengthens our faith)*

What things shape the way you think about God in ways that they shouldn't? What attributes of God are hard for you to really get a good grip on?

Read Deut. 2.24-3.22 . In these 2 battles, what would you say God is trying to teach His people? What were the temptations that God was trying to protect them from and help them overcome? How does that translate for us today? And how does this compare to their experience and the lessons that God was trying to teach them in the previous passage, where He would not let them do battle?

One skeptic wrote about the battle with King Sihon, "I'm seeing a pattern here. God hardens the heart of someone then proceeds to punish them by killing them. Where is the justice in this?" How would you respond to this? What questions does this raise for you (or have you faced from others) about the way God works in the king's heart?

Read 2.34 and 3.6. Richard Dawkins says of OT passages like this, "The Bible is a blueprint of in-group morality, complete with instructions for genocide, enslavement of out-groups, and world domination." - Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*

How do you begin to make sense of the commands in the OT to destroy every living person in the land? What were the reasons offered in the sermon? What others have you considered? And which ones are most helpful for you personally?

What is the overarching impression this passage leaves on you about what God is like?...about the severity of your sin?

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