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← CONQUERING THE ENEMY →





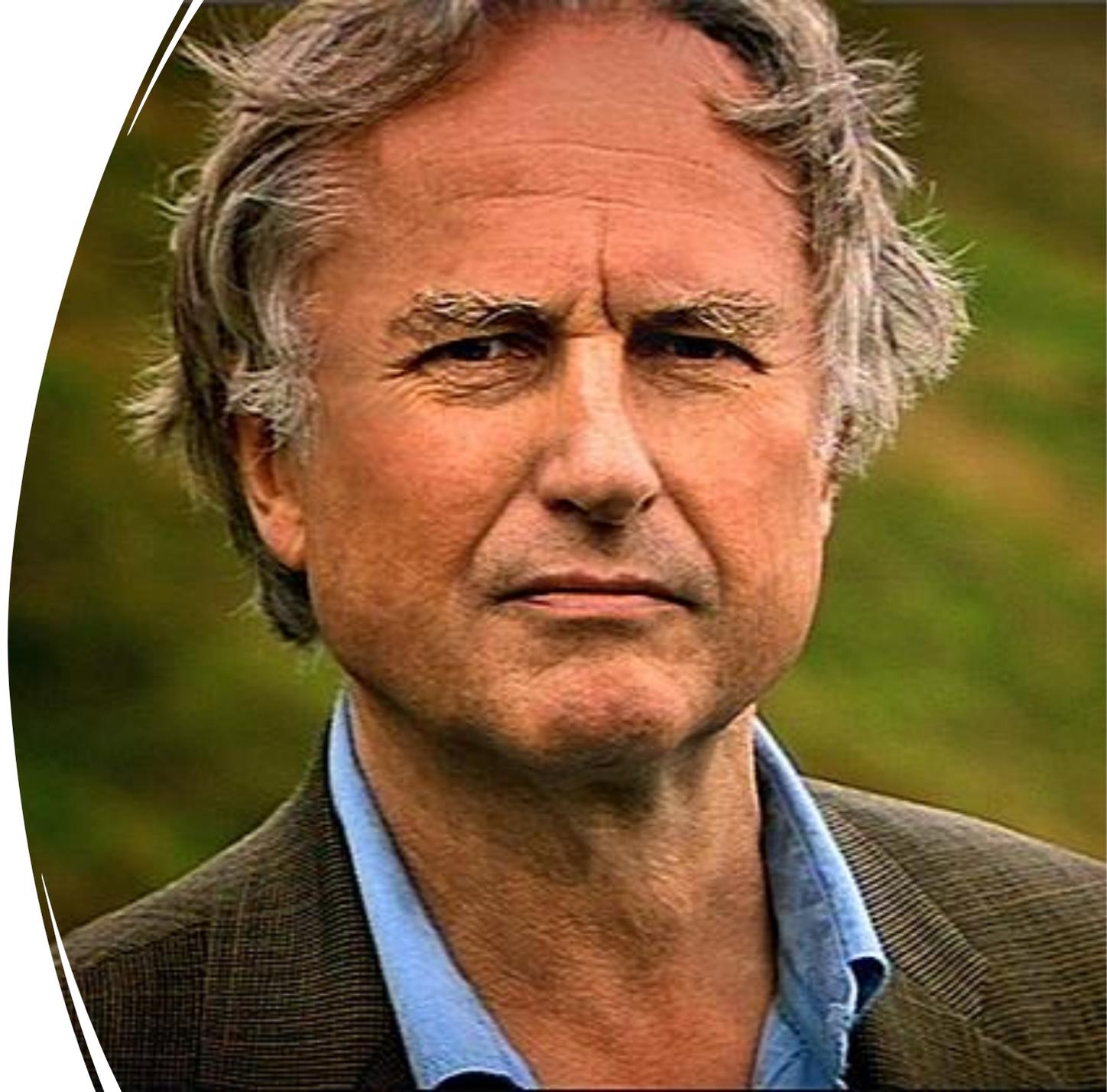
Big Idea:

As you get to know someone better,
you often discover they are even better.

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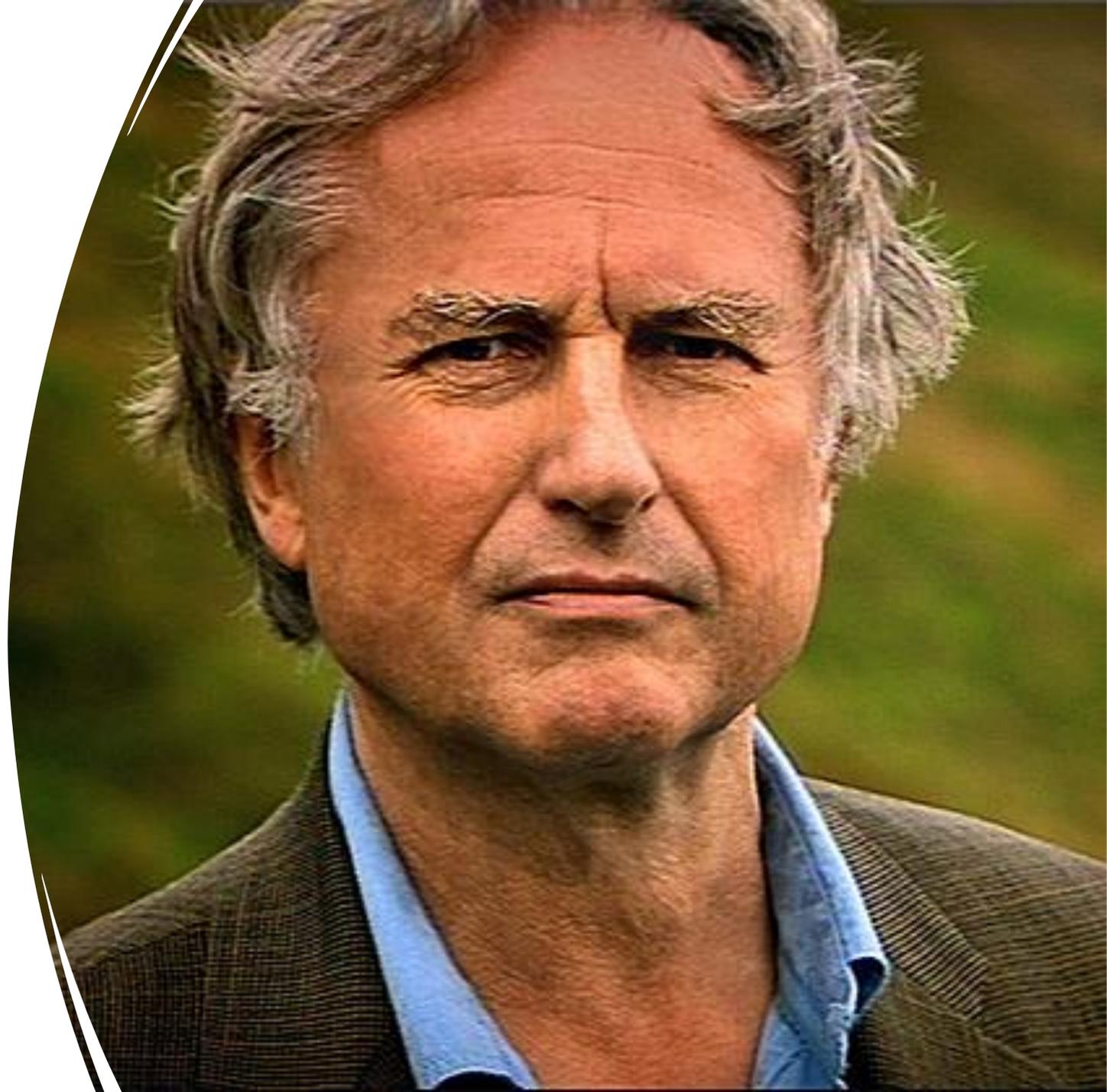
“The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it; a petty, unjust, unforgiving control-freak;

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“a vindictive,
bloodthirsty ethnic
cleanser; a
misogynistic,
homophobic, racist,
infanticidal, genocidal,
filicidal, pestilential,
megalomaniacal,
sodomasochistic,
capriciously malevolent
bully.”

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- 1. Does God approve of genocide?*
- 2. Is God for us and against them?*
- 3. Is God really a loving God?*

1. ***Who*** is behind this question?
2. ***What*** is behind this question?

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1. Does God approve of genocide?

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This was not genocide.

- War Language
- Warnings

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Deuteronomy 7:1-3

”When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations . . . and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them

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Deuteronomy 7:1-3

”then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy.

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Deuteronomy 7:1-3

“Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons.”

This was not genocide.

- War Language
- Warnings

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Numbers 33:51-55

“When you cross the Jordan into Canaan, drive out all the inhabitants of the land before you.

Numbers 33:51-55

“Destroy all their carved images and their cast idols, and demolish all their high places. Take possession of the land and settle in it, for I have given you the land to possess . . .

Numbers 33:51-55

“But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land, those you allow to remain will become barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will give you trouble in the land where you will live.”

This was not genocide.

- War Language
- Warnings

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Big Idea:

**As you get to know God better,
His heart gets so much better.**

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His heart is for our good.

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2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

1. Does God approve of genocide?

2. Is God for us and against them?

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*God does not take sides.
He takes over.*

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*God does not take sides.
He takes over.*

- “Bad Guys” are spared.
- You’re the “Bad Guys.”
- There’s only one “Good Guy.”

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Deuteronomy 9:1-8

“Hear, Israel: You are now about to cross the Jordan to go in and dispossess nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities that have walls up to the sky.

Deuteronomy 9:1-8

“After the Lord your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, ‘The Lord has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.’”

Deuteronomy 9:1-8

“No, it is on account of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is going to drive them out before you. It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land;

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Deuteronomy 9:1-8

“but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the Lord your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Deuteronomy 9:1-8

“Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people.

Deuteronomy 9:1-8

“Remember this and never forget how you aroused the anger of the Lord your God in the wilderness. From the day you left Egypt until you arrived here, you have been rebellious against the Lord .

Deuteronomy 9:1-9

“At Horeb you aroused the Lord’s wrath so that he was angry enough to destroy you.”

(see also Deuteronomy 8:14-20)

*God does not take sides.
He takes over.*

- “Bad Guys” are spared.
- You’re the “Bad Guys.”
- There’s only one “Good Guy.”

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Joshua 5:13-14

“Are you for us or for our enemies?”

“Neither, but as the Commander of the Army of the LORD, I have now come.”

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“The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either, but right through every human heart.”

- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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Big Idea:

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His heart gets so much better.**

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His heart is for our good.

His heart is for everyone.

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Reveltaion 7:9

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.”

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1. Does God approve of genocide?

2. Is God for us and against them?

3. Is God really a loving God?

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A loving God gets rid of evil.

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Canaanites were known for . . .

- Child Sacrifice – Deuteronomy 18
- Sexual Perversion – Leviticus 18
- Cruelty to the Weak – Deuteronomy 25
- Pagan Worship – Deuteronomy 12

Deuteronomy 18:9-12

“When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire . . .

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Deuteronomy 18:9-12

“who practices divination or sorcery,
interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or
casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist
or who consults the dead.

Deuteronomy 18:9-12

“Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord; because of these same detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you.”

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A loving God gets rid of evil.

- He occasionally shows His justice.
- He regularly shows His patience.

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Big Idea:

**As you get to know God better,
His heart gets so much better.**

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His heart is for our good.

His heart is for everyone.

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FATHER,

FORGIVE THEM

FOR THEY KNOW NOT

WHAT THEY DO.



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LUKE 23:34

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His heart is for our good.

His heart is for everyone.

His heart beat and bled and broke for you.

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Exodus 34:6-7

“The LORD, the LORD,
the compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and
faithfulness,

Exodus 34:6-7

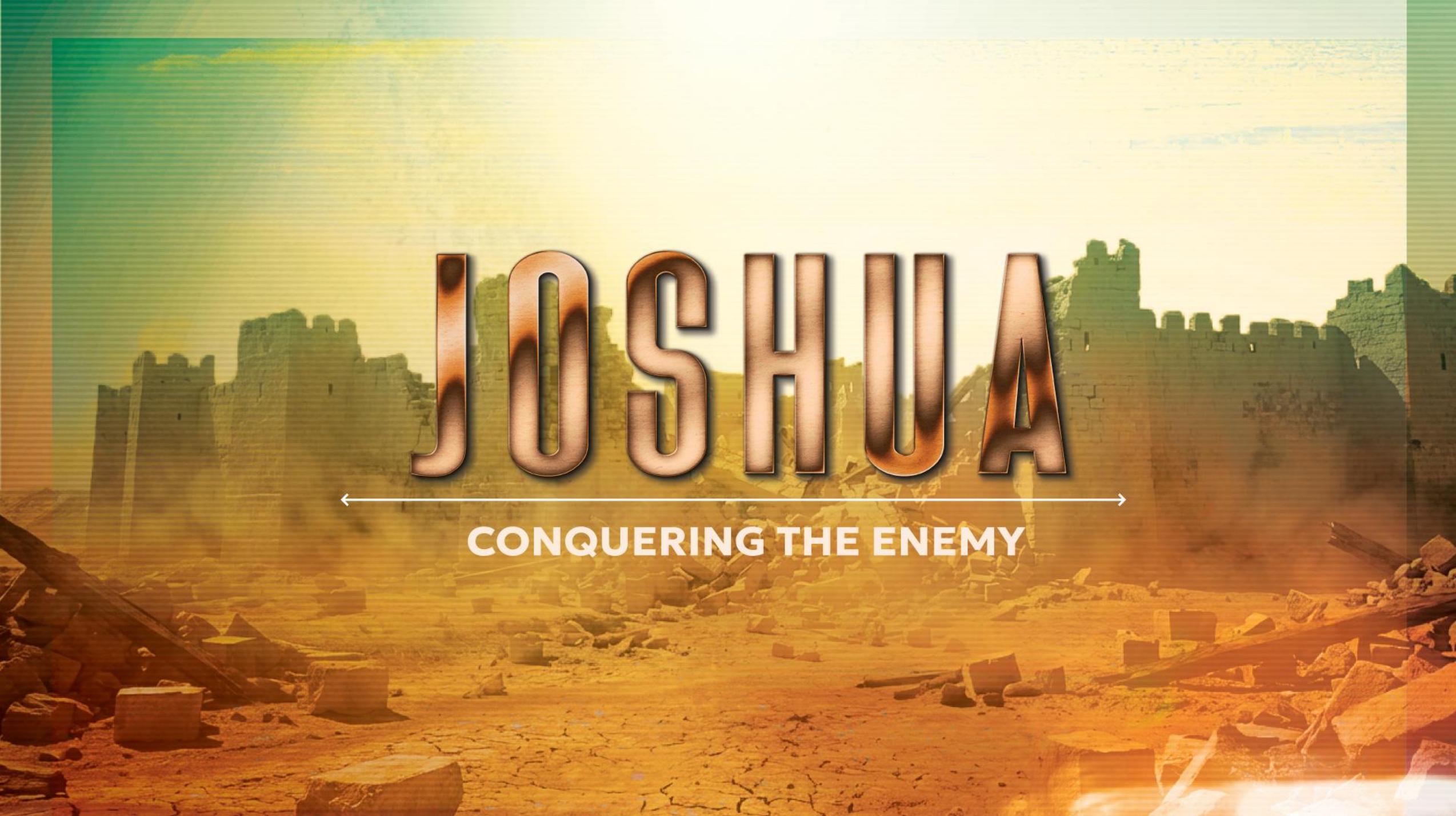
“maintaining love to thousands, and
forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.
Yet he does not leave the guilty
unpunished”

His heart is for our good.

His heart is for everyone.

His heart beat and bled and broke for you.

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