

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this good problem as we look for a future permanent home that Element can move into that will be larger and have some proper Air Conditioning. There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus and people, we hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here.

- The Element Team

UPCOMING EVENTS:

REDEMPTION GROUPS

Begin this September

Join us for 9 weeks of focused and applied Bible Study through the book of Exodus, and see where God is wanting to bring Healing and Restoration in your life.

Check out our website for the full schedule, for more information, and online registration form.
Must Register by August 20th, but the sooner the better.

www.ourelement.org/redemption

JOIN OUR NEW BULLETIN BOARD

Share/swap/offer goods & services to all of Element.

Must attend Element to join, rules apply.
facebook.com/groups/ECCbulletinboard

PART 2 WHAT! — IN THE — WORLD?

DEUTERONOMY 20:16

EXODUS 4:14

NUMBERS 12:9

JOB 4:9

ECCLESIASTES 7:9

EPHESIANS 4:26

NUMBERS 23:19

PROVERBS 19:11

EXODUS 3:6

DEUT 20:16-18

LEVITICUS 18:30

DEUT 18:9-11

DEUT 12:31

LEVITICUS 18:25

DEUT 2:4 & 9, 19

DEUT 23:7

GENESIS 15:13-16

PSALM 145:8

2 PETER 2:5

LEVITICUS 18:28

DEUT 19:1

JOSHUA 11:23

JUDGES 1:1-3

JUDGES 2:1-2

**THIRTEEN:
ANGER AND GENOCIDE**

THIRTEEN: ANGER AND GENOCIDE

We are doing a series at Element where we are answering questions that people asked us at the end of last year. Many of you have expressed that you have enjoyed this series because it shows the heart of where Element is at in their thinking right now in regard to God and grace.

Out of the last 13 weeks, if you have been here for it, what has stood out to you the most?

Is there any lingering question you would like answered?

If God is a God of love, as clearly shown by Jesus, the What in the World question is: *[then why] “did God command genocide?”* This week’s question comes about because of a focus in our culture where people want to discount God’s sovereign goodness. Many people today see a disparity between the God of the Old Testament and who Jesus portrays God to be in the New Testament. This disparity is not something Jesus Himself would have said was there as He held the Old Testament as authoritative and true, and that God has always been the same “yesterday, today, and forever.”

Have you ever thought the God displayed in the Old Testament was different than the one that Jesus spoke about? How/why?

Do you still think that?

We learned in the message that God is not like us in that fact that while God can be very angry, God doesn’t fall apart like us, act irrationally like us, or “see red” like us; He cannot sin. God is all powerful *and* all good *and* perfectly loving...so would He really sanction genocide?! What in the world?! Remember, we can’t possibly understand Old Testament stories of war and destruction without *knowing* who God is. The truth is that God is perfect in His wisdom (omniscience), power (omnipotence), and love (omnipresence).

In what way does learning more about God’s wisdom bring clarity to your own circumstances?

Do you believe God is all powerful?

**How do you feel about God when you think about His power?
(Overwhelmed? Comforted? Scared? Safe?)**

The Israelites cherished the command to love God first and most because God wants to be loved; not because of a deficiency in His character, but because it is what HE DOES...He loves. When we read accounts in the Old Testament about destruction and wars, the end goal was for God’s people to have a nation where He could be displayed in a true way.

Read Romans 8:38-39.

Does knowing that God is with you all the time, no matter what you do or where you go, make you feel loved? Why or why not?

Think about a 3-legged stool: one leg represents God’s infinite wisdom, the second leg represents His absolute power, and the third leg is God’s endless love. This stool taken as a whole represents our faith. If we are struggling with our view of God, we are usually questioning either God’s wisdom, power, or love. And a 3-legged stool will wobble and collapse if one leg is weak.

Share a situation or area in your life where you find your faith tottering – which leg of the stool needs support? How can your Gospel Community help with growing your faith?

If we are confused or perplexed by stories we read because of hard things we experience, we can trust God’s omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. And the great news, the heart of the Gospel, is that Jesus lived, died, and rose again in order that we can be 100% confident in who God is and what He does in our lives. This week, let’s look for ways to pull up our stools of faith together and see God for who He is: all wise, all powerful, and all loving.