Violence and Holy War

One Story that Leads to Jesus

Cities in the Biblical Story

- **Violence and War**
  - Jericho, Ai, Canaanite armies … lots of conflict
  - How can we understand?

- **A history of cities**
  - Jericho – the first city encountered since leaving Egypt
  - Biblical cities associated with evil – e.g. first city build by Cain

- **Cities (*continued*)**
  - Cities associated with kings and evil
    - Babylon and Nineveh
    - Sodom and Gamorrah
    - …even Jerusalem
  - Cities - where evil resides in the Biblical story and is often associated with the "king" who would assume "god" status
  - Jericho – Canaanites (moral corruption and child sacrifice)

Holiness and Witness

- **Some Key Ideas to this Point**
  - Holiness and presence of God among the people
  - Ritual and Moral purity
  - Covenant
    - Right relationship, and
    - Witness
  - Shema
    - "listen O Israel"
    - Hear
    - Obey

- **What would it mean to have Jericho remain as the city/source of evil?**

- **Jericho – actor and witness**
  - Israel relies on God for victory
  - On the 7th day, a new creation
  - Law of *herem* (no one grows rich from way) is a stipulation to possess the land
- **Goal of the Book of Joshua**
  - Not how to conquer the land
  - How to avoid losing the land
  - Written long after the period
  - cautionary tale about what the people are to do and not do in order to avoid the fate of the Northern Kingdom in losing the land (see Dt 7:1-6)
  - Language is stylistic and hyperbolic

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