

The land the children of Israel were to inherit was large enough to house seven nations which were greater and mightier than them. This shows that the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong but that when God is in a matter, things can go in any direction He so chooses. The land was suitable for growth. The twelve tribes would increase and gradually fill the whole territory which was covenanted to the patriarchs. This was part of the divine purpose and there was an expectation of faith from His children. Their advantages were granted on a conditional basis. If they hearkened kept and did the judgments that were given through Moses, then the mercy form above was promised. This is different from the now popular but erroneous belief in unconditional love which so many have recently espoused. This is never found in the holy scriptures.

Taking the size of Israel to be in the order of two million (600,000 x 2 plus children and older people) and that each of these seven nations was bigger than Israel the projected population that was currently in the land was in excess of 15 million. That is a lot of people and more than live there today. The climate was different and the fruitfulness of the land is well known, being the land of milk and honey!

The seven nations were to be destroyed, and no covenants were to be made with them. Later this was broken by Israel in their rush to inhabit the land they often acted too quickly and without sufficient thought and investigation. The matter of the Gibeonites in Joshua 9 is such a case. There the issue of making a specific covenant with them overruled the general prohibition against these original inhabitants. The covenant with the Hivites stood the requirement to utterly destroy them was eclipsed. This shows the balance of the issue. Their conversion to the principles of the Law of Moses superseded their destruction as this was a religious censure not in essence an ethnic censure. *The iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full*, Genesis 15v16.

Taking each of these nations we do see a preservation of most into subsequent eras. The word genocide is therefore inappropriate to use in this context. Only one is not found.

Hittites	2 Samuel 11v3
Girgashites	Destroyed, no further record of any.
Amorites	Joshua 2v9,10
Canaanites	Zechariah 14v21
Perizzites	Joshua 17v15
Hivites	Joshua 9v7
Jebusites	2 Samuel 5v8

There are seven references where these nations are listed. These are Genesis 10v16, Genesis 15v21, Deuteronomy 7v1, Joshua 3v10, Joshua 24v11, 1 Chronicles 1v14, Nehemiah 9v8.

Why were the Girgashites destroyed but not the others? I would be interested to hear if anyone has an explanation for that fact.

The fruitfulness of both man and beast was promised in this covenant. No male or female would be barren among them, verse 14, because they were to be blessed above all people. This followed their dramatic increase from the seventy that left Canaan in the days of Jacob to the hundreds of thousands that fled from Egypt and were to wander in the wilderness for forty years.

Their name was to be destroyed from under heaven and that has been achieved as no modern nation bears their name nor is directly descended from any of these seven nations. That this was a religious war is emphasised by the inclusion of the edict to "*The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire*". They were to utterly detest and utterly abhor all false religion. They are not to taught in comparative religious classes or given the freedom to worship what so ever they pleased, there is only One True religion.

A Voice from the Altar

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