



In the previous chapter, we learned how the people of Israel in the wilderness awaiting to go into the Promised Land, had to

have a personal regard for God, and to conduct themselves accordingly, - in everything, to love God with heart, soul and might. This was in turn to be focussed upon the family. This Holiness was to pervade the whole nation, and so this chapter 7 commences that process.

This chapter describes how when they go into the land they were to have nothing to do with the existing inhabitants of the land, and that God would cast them out from before them. God would evict them. 7:1 – *When the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land... and had cast out many nations...* verse 2: *and when the Lord thy God shall deliver them before thee...* So we see that God is the doer of it. This has led to the God of the Bible being accused by ignorant and unlearned atheists of being a genocidal maniac. This accusation was countered in this talk https://www.bible-truth.co.uk/public_lectures/641/genocide-and-the-bible

Far from such a wicked label, these tribes had been given just as much an opportunity as the nation of Israel, but had become utterly corrupt, immoral, to such an extent, that their habits would

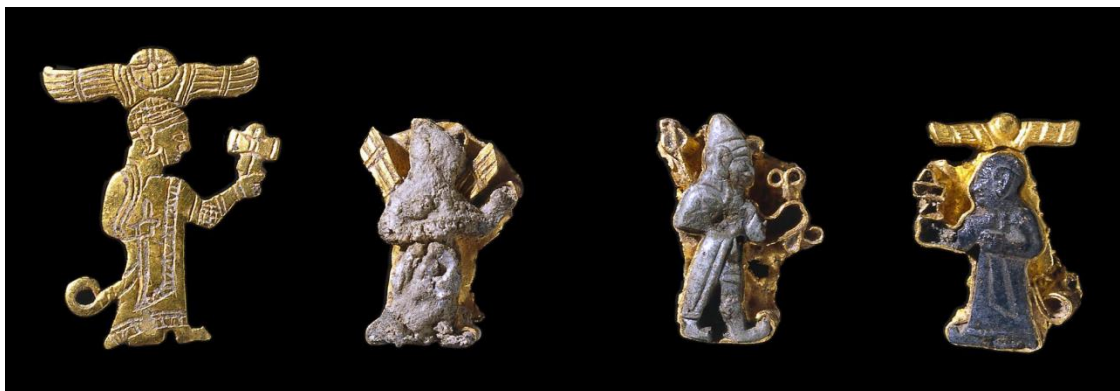
lead to their self-destruction – none exist today, whereas the Jew is of course still here.

God described the tribes living in the land as *seven nations greater and mightier than thou* –

In what sense? Great and mighty from the human perspective – it can be recalled how the nation were scared, and listened to the spies evil report (see Numbers 13:32) as these nations were regarded as mighty warriors, aggressive fighters, and to the nation of Israel would appear worldly-wise, and intimidating. God was teaching them that these nations could not be overcome by just human endeavour, but only by His Will. (see Zech 4:6)

Hittites

This first in the list were part of a bigger group who had migrated south from the region today known as Turkey. Originally descending from Heth (see Genesis 10:15; 23:16; 27:46; 49:32 for more background) In size and strength, it rivalled the Egyptian and Babylonian empires of the time. The Hittite state was a military organization. Here are some gold figurines of Hittite gods found by Sir Leonard Wooley held in the British Museum.

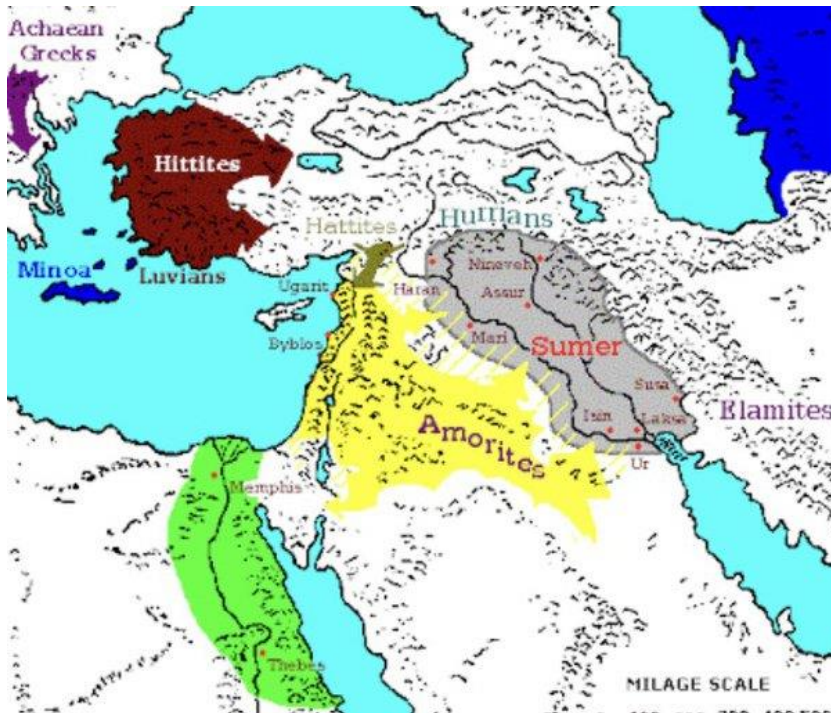


Girgashites

A tribe affiliated with the Canaanites and Hittites (1 Chronicles 1:14) They have been tentatively identified by modern historians with the Karkisha, allies of the Hittites in their wars with Rameses

II. It is interesting that their name may have a legacy in the name of the town of Gergasa in Matthew 8:28, where the great herd of 2000 pigs dashed madly over the cliff into the Sea of Galilee. Appropriate we might suggest.

Amorites



Another tribe descending from Ham (Genesis 10:16) and described as very tall and fearsome see Amos 2:9. Israel had already had experience with these having overcoming Og king of Bashan, and Sihon on the

East of Jordan. Archaeology attests to the number of different gods they worshipped.

Canaanites

The Hebrew word is from a root meaning to bend the knee, thus to humiliate oneself, and so by implication a trader. (Note the margin for the word Canaanite in Zechariah 14:21 is merchant.)

Nevertheless they were a distinct tribe, (one of Jesus disciples was so labelled –(Mark 3:18) Cursed by God, Genesis 9:25, their trade in religion, links them to Babylon (revelation 18:13), worship included sacrifice, temple prostitution, and, in some traditions, child sacrifice. Baal was one of their gods, and they worshipped at Asherah poles, described as stocks and groves later on in the scripture.

Perizzites

From the Hebrew word *parazi* meaning villagers or rustic dwellers, although not major city-state rulers like the Canaanites or Hittites, their presence was part of the idolatrous environment of Canaan, and they persisted as being a thorn in the side of Israel, even by the time of Ezra, still being listed as a foreign tribe which the Jews were marrying into (Ezra 9:1-2)

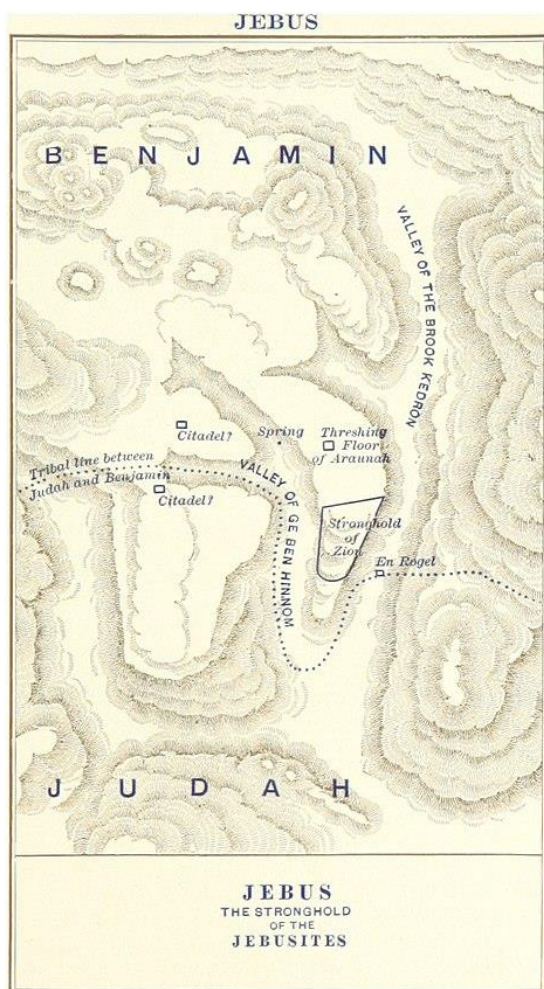
Hivites

This tribe seemed to live in the northern reaches of the promised land (Judges 3:3) The Gibeonites who tricked Joshua were Hivites. So also was Shechem the son of Hamor who took Dinah the

daughter of Jacob. Their ability at being cunning made them dangerous enemies. They were because of shrewdness allowed to dwell with Israel but only as slaves, wood choppers and drawers of water (Joshua 9:21, 1 Kings 9:20-21)

Jebusites

This tribe is identified with the area in and around Jerusalem, once called Jebus. Araunah, 1 Chronicles 21:15 is a Hurrian word, meaning lord, showing the connection of this tribe to the Hittites mentioned earlier



This brief summary of the seven nations, shows a powerful grouping of nations all thoroughly

saturated with the worship of human lust, in all its ugliness and terror.

In this chapter God repeatedly exhorts through Moses of the need for a complete separation. They were not to be afraid of them (verse 18,21) Not only was God going to evict them from the land - He would provide the power, even through the seven nations were greater and mightier, they would not be able to stand before the Power of the Almighty. – Verse 21 – *The Lord thy God is among you, a Mighty God and terrible* (well should we remember – Hebrews 12:29) God would evict them – verse 22 – *little by little* – a gradual process, to ensure the husbandry of the land would not suffer, and that Israel His people would have maximum benefit, and so that the task would not become so overwhelming, that it would prevent Israel from the more important work of worship and service. Surely this shows the compassion and patience of a Loving God.

Still, Israel would not just sit back, and watch God do it all. They were to be intimately involved in the very extinction of these evil and blasphemous influences, it would their energy, and their confrontation – so they would be aware of the enemy they were dealing with in all its horror. Verse 23,24 *But the Lord thy God shall deliver them unto you, ...until they be destroyed. And he shall deliver their kings into your hand, and you shalt destroy their name from under heaven: there shall no man be able to stand before you, until you have destroyed them. The graven images of their gods shall you burn with fire: ...*

In case they found such a prospect daunting God assured them that in the same way that He used plagues to free Israel from Egypt, he would do the same to these nations (verse 19). He would send the stinging hornet (verse 20) so even the last remaining would be gone. The Hebrew for hornet is *tsirah*

meaning scourge, and is connected to leprosy. So it might not be referring to insects but just pestilence in general.

A faithful adherence to this charge, and command would mean that *none of the evil diseases* of Egypt (verse 15) which they witnessed in the plagues, and also saw among the general promiscuous Egyptian population, and would also be among these Canaanite tribes none of these diseases would befall Israel. Godly living in line with the Gospel of course acts as a great protection to many of the diseases caused by decadent and unrestrained living. But of course, the greatest disease of all, sin, has an effective remedy in the Great Physician, and Israel already knew that to look upon Jesus (the serpent on the pole) even death could be overcome.

As well as a separation from the practices and sins, by eviscerating, evicting and exterminating, casting out the nations, Israel were commanded to also separate from the more appealing aspects. Verse 3: *Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.*

Relationships on a personal level as well as national. It is amazing how the human nature, can see a rule clearly and understand how it must be applied, but when it counts, “rules don’t apply to me” excuses kick in. This intermarriage with the alien was a persistent thorn in the side right the way through the history of Israel, from the time of Balaam (Numbers 25:6) to the time of Ezra (Ezra 9:1,2) and the Apostle strongly advises to marry *in the Lord* (1 Corinthians 7:39)

Similarly, the worship habits of the Canaanites were not to creep into the camp of Israel see verse 5 *...ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.* And Verse 25: *The graven images of*

their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared ...for it is an abomination to the Lord thy God.

Over time the familiarity of other religions, breaks down barriers, and seemingly for innocent or practical reasons, “the way other people do things” seems so much better, and interesting and laid back and relaxed and friendly and ... and ... always reasons to water down and dilute. But last law class emphasised the unmoveable foundation, - to love the Lord thy God with **all** thy heart with **all** thy soul and **all** thy might – means no compromise. It best to always stick close the plain, simple, Gospel message, and avoid the rituals, personalities and commandments of men in false religion.

Brother Terry