

Revelations from the Old Testament

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Sub-title: Why did God command Israel to destroy seven Canaanite Nations?

- 1 Cor. 10:11 tells us that O.T. events are examples, written for our learning & for our instructions
- We read & study these events, not to adopt O.T. practices, but to learn timeless principles
- Understanding the answer to our sub-title question helps us to understand the impeccable character of God
- God's dealings with 7 Canaanite nations may seem very harsh on the surface, but on examination, it shows the mercy and grace of God

1. Seven Canaanite Nations to be destroyed

Deuteronomy 7:1–5 (NKJV) *When the Lord your God brings you into the land which you go to possess, and has cast out many nations before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, **seven nations greater and mightier than you, 2 and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. 3 Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son. 4 For they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods; so the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you and destroy you suddenly. 5 But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.***

- God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt & brought them out with a strong and mighty hand
- Their Exodus and journey through the Wilderness was to take them to the Promised Land
- The Promised Land was generally referred to as the “Land of Canaan”
- The term “Land of Canaan” corresponds (approx.) to the present day term “Palestine”, and included the land of present day Israel, Gaza, Lebanon and Syria
- At the time of the Exodus, Canaan Land was occupied by seven nations, namely, the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites & Jebusites

- God's instructions to the Israelites were: When you come to the Promised Land:
 - ***you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them***
 - ***make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them***
 - ***don't make marriages with them***
 - ***don't give your sons to their daughters as husbands***
 - ***don't give your daughters to their sons as wives***
 - ***destroy their altars & break down their sacred pillars***
 - ***cut down their wooden images***
 - ***burn their carved images with fire***
- God said:
 - If you don't do what I tell you to do, *they will turn your sons away from following Me, to serve other gods*
 - (You will learn their ways and practice their deeds)
 - Then the anger of the Lord will be aroused against you & He will destroy you suddenly

2. God had a Plan (Plan of Redemption of all humanity)

- God had promised to bring a Deliverer into the earth, who would deliver people from their sins & its consequences (eternity in Hell)
- In Genesis, this Deliverer was referred to as "the Seed of the woman"
- In the book of Isaiah, He was called "the Servant"
- In the book of Daniel, He was called "the Messiah"
- In the New Testament, He was called "Jesus Christ, the Son of God"
- For this to happen, God had chosen the lineage of Abraham to bring forth His promised Deliverer
- God needed a "clean" & righteous people, and ultimately, He needed a virgin through whom He would His Son into the world

Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV) *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, & shall call His name Immanuel.*

- This virgin was Mary, a descendant of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

3. The Wickedness of the seven Canaanite Nations was great

Deuteronomy 9:4 (ESV) Do not say in your heart, after the Lord your God has thrust them out before you, 'It is because of my righteousness that the Lord has brought me in to possess this land,' whereas it is because

of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out before you.

- God told the Israelites: I am not giving you the land of Canaan because you are so wonderful, but because the nations in it are very wicked

Deuteronomy 9:5–6 (ESV) *Not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart are you going in to possess their land, but **because of the wickedness of these nations the Lord your God is driving them out from before you, and that he may confirm the word that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.** 6 “Know, therefore, that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stubborn people.*

- God, in His foreknowledge of the wickedness of the Canaanite nations, determined to take their land from them & give it to Abraham & his descendants

4. God’s Covenant Promise to Abraham

Genesis 15:12–16 (NKJV) *Now when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and behold, horror and great darkness fell upon him. 13 **Then He said to Abram:** “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them **four hundred years.** 14 And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. 16 **But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”***

Vs 18 *On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: **“To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”***

- There were seven core nations in Canaan & several other people groups
- The term “Canaanites” sometimes refers to one of these seven nations, and at other times, it refers to all the nations that lived in “Canaan Land”
- **Vs 16. .. the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete**
- The term “Amorites” is also a cover term for all the people who lived in Canaan at that time

- Seemingly, God gave the Amorites (Canaanites) time to repent – he waited 400 years for them to repent of their ways, before commanding the Israelites to wipe that out

5. Main Reasons why God commanded the Annihilation of these seven Nations

a. Great Wickedness

They committed every abomination that the Lord hates (Deut. 12:31)

- b. Sexual sins, including, but not limited to, sodomy (homosexuality)
- c. Sacrificing children to demons (Deut. 12:31)
- d. Mixing human seed with demons (producing giant offspring) [hybrids]
- e. God was determined to protect the purity of the human species to He could bring the Messiah into the world

Dake's Chart of the Thirteen Sins of the Canaanites

1. Homosexuality (Gen. 13:13; 19:1–29; Lev. 18:22–30; 20:13)
2. Incest (Lev. 18:6–30; 20:12–23)
3. Inordinate affection (Lev. 18:19–30; 20:18–23)
4. Adultery (Lev. 18:20–30; 20:10–23)
5. Idolatry (Lev. 18:21–30; 20:2–5; Dt. 12)
6. Profanity (Lev. 18:21–30)
7. Bestiality (Lev. 18:23–30; 20:15–23)
8. Witchcraft (Lev. 20:6, 23; Dt. 18:9–14)
9. Whoredom (Lev. 20:1–23)
10. Dishonor to parents (Lev. 20:9–23)
11. Murder (Dt. 12:31; 18:9–10)
12. Stealing (Lev. 19:11–13 compared with 20:23)
13. Lying (Lev. 19:11–16 compared with 20:23)
14. Sacrificing their children to demons (Deut. 12:31)

Leviticus 18:24–25,30 (ESV) *Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, 25 the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants...30 keep my charge never to practice any of these abominable customs that were practiced before you, & never to make yourselves unclean by them: I am the Lord your God.*

2 Corinthians 6:17–18 (NKJV) *Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” 18 “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”*