

# THE SEVEN TRIBES OF CANAAN

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The seven pagan tribes in Canaan that Israel would destroy so that they could claim the land of Canaan as their own represent seven different kinds of carnal character traits found within us. We, too, have 'land' to possess, our soul, and it's the Blood of Messiah Yeshua and the Spirit of the Lord that fight for us that we might overcome our carnality.

## *Amorites*

The name means, the 'high ones' because they were very tall. The Amorites were prominent in the Land. The Akkadians record them being in the land as early as 2500 BC and that the land was called the land of the Amorites. (The 1st dynasty of Babylon was Amorite: 1830-1550 BC, with Hammurabi being the most important king: 1728-1686 BC.) Sihon and Og were Amorite kings in the days of Moses that dwelt east of the Jordan River. They sacrificed their young infants to Molech. Their chief characteristic was pride.

## *Hittites*

Their chief characteristic was aggression and they were very powerful and covetous. Their religion was a mixture of Babylon and Egypt. They were in the land from 1600 to 1200 BC. Their chief goddess was Ishtar of Nineveh (Acts 19:34: Diana of the Ephesians). Their gods usually rode on the backs of animals or were enthroned between them.

## *Perrizites*

This pagan group means, 'to drag away violently; hate.' They dwelt in unwalled cities.

## *Canaanites*

This group valued the arts and sciences. They were a fertility cult and most debased, more than others. Their form of worship entailed both heterosexual and homosexual ceremonies. El was their chief god who was noted for his gross crimes: he murdered his father and his son and decapitated his daughter. Of course, his followers were like him. Baal, son of El, was a god of thunder. Anat, Astarte, Asherah were feminine goddesses of sex and war who were utterly immoral. The Ras Shamra clay tablets describe their pantheon of gods and goddesses. *Mot* was the god of death; *Reshep* of pestilence; *Shulman* of health and *Koshar* of the arts and crafts.

## *Girgashites*

Their name means, ‘to draw away; to entice. They, too, were utterly immoral and corrupt, decadent, vile and base.

## *Hivites*

These people were impulsive, deceitful, false, *unwarlike* and warmhearted. The Gibeonites were Hivites, who deceived Joshua (Joshua 9:3f.).

## *Jebusites*

This people were warlike, just the opposite of the Hivites. They held the city that would be named Jerusalem, and seems to have been captured under Joshua (Joshua 18:28). Yet, in Judges it’s noted in 19:9-12 that the city was in the hands of foreigners, and in the days of King David, 400 years after Joshua came into the land, David conquered it (1st Chron. 11:4-7).

## *Summary*

The main characteristics of all the pagan peoples in the land of Canaan was pride and rebellion. As followers of Yeshua we need to be aware that our carnality is like them:

1. We must not worship our conception of Yeshua, but Yeshua Himself.
2. Our nature is very vengeful.
3. Our nature is willful instead of submitting to Yeshua,
4. Our nature is proud, which manifests in a superior or an inferior attitude toward others (insecure).
5. Our nature is loves falsehood instead of honesty.
6. Our nature is sensual: sex in our society is not unlike the land of Canaan.
7. Our nature wants to control of our lives versus letting Yeshua be in control.

God promised ancient Israel that He would destroy their enemies as they walked in His ways, and the Lord will do the same for us in the spiritual realm as we walk with Messiah Yeshua:

“Behold, I send a Messenger<sup>1</sup> before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him and obey His voice! Do not provoke Him!, for He will not pardon your transgressions, for My name is in Him, but if you indeed obey His voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. For My Messenger will go before you and bring you in to

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<sup>1</sup> The Hebrew word is *mal’ach* and means ‘one who is sent’ or messenger, as sent ones usually have a message. Usually ‘sent ones’ from Heaven are angels, but this sent one is *the* Sent One, as Yeshua refers to Himself in John 3:34; 4:34; 5:23-24, 30, 36, 37, 38; 6:29, 38-39, 44, 57; 7:16, 28-29, 33; 8:16, 18, 26, 29, 42; 9:4; 10:36; 11:42; 12:44-45, 49; 13:20; 14:24; 15:21; 16:5; 17:3, 8, 18, 21, 23, 25; 20:21; Heb. 3:1. See also Mt. 10:40; 15:24; Mk. 9:37; Lk. 4:18, 43; 9:48; 10:16.

the Amorites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the Hivites and the Jebusites and I will cut them off. You must not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works, but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars. So you shall serve Yahveh your God and He will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from the midst of you. No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land. I will fulfill the number of your days. I will send My fear before you and I will cause confusion among all the people to whom you come and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. Also, I will send hornets before you, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you. I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land. I will set your bounds from the Red Sea to the Sea (the land of the Philistines), and from the desert to the (Euphrates) River. I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. You must not make any covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me. For if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.” (Exodus 23:20-33)