

# Deuteronomy 2:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Avims which dwelt in Hazerim, even unto Azzah, the Caphtorims, which came forth out of Caphtor, destroyed them, and dwelt in their stead.)

## Analysis

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The note about the Avims and Caphtorims describes yet another historical displacement—'the Caphtorims, which came forth out of Caphtor, destroyed them, and dwelt in their stead.' This reference to non-Israelite conquest (Philistines from Crete/Caphtor displacing Avvites) shows God's sovereignty extends even to peoples outside the covenant narrative. All human history unfolds under divine providence, not just Israel's story.

## Historical Context

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The Caphtorims (Philistines) migrated from Caphtor (Crete/Cyprus region) and settled in southern coastal Canaan, displacing the Avvim. Amos 9:7 confirms God directed even the Philistines' migration. This shows that while Israel was God's chosen people, He remained sovereign over all nations' movements and destinies. Providence is universal, not limited to the elect.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's sovereignty over all peoples and nations inform your understanding of His character?
2. What comfort comes from knowing God directs all history, not just the history of His chosen people?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָיוּ יָם	וַיָּשֶׁב ו	בְּחֶצֶר יָם	עַד	עַזְּ הַ	כַּפְתֹּרִים
H5757	them and dwelt	in Hazerim	H5704	even unto Azzah	the Caphtorims
	H3427	H2699		H5804	H3732
הַיָּצֵא יָם	מִכַּפְתֹּר	הַשְּׂמִיד	וַיָּשֶׁב ו	תְּחִתָּם:	
which came forth	out of Caphtor	destroyed	them and dwelt	H8478	
H3318	H3731	H8045	H3427		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 10:14** (Parallel theme): And Pathrusim, and Casluhim, (out of whom came Philistim,) and Caphtorim.

**Joshua 13:3** (Parallel theme): From Sihor, which is before Egypt, even unto the borders of Ekron northward, which is counted to the Canaanite: five lords of the Philistines; the Gazathites, and the Ashdothites, the Eshkalonites, the Gittites, and the Ekronites; also the Avites:

**Amos 9:7** (Parallel theme): Are ye not as children of the Ethiopians unto me, O children of Israel? saith the LORD. Have not I brought up Israel out of the land of Egypt? and the Philistines from Caphtor, and the Syrians from Kir?

**Jeremiah 47:4** (Parallel theme): Because of the day that cometh to spoil all the Philistines, and to cut off from Tyrus and Zidon every helper that remaineth: for the LORD will spoil the Philistines, the remnant of the country of Caphtor.

**Jeremiah 25:20** (Parallel theme): And all the mingled people, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Azzah, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod,

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