

Deuteronomy 7:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, 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 thou;

Analysis

God's command to conquer Canaan establishes His sovereignty over nations and judgment upon wickedness. The seven nations—Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites—represent complete and comprehensive opposition to God's holy purposes. The phrase 'greater and mightier than thou' emphasizes that victory depends on God's power, not Israel's strength. The Hebrew *herem* (devoted destruction) reflects God's holy judgment against idolatrous cultures whose iniquity had reached fullness (Genesis 15:16). This foreshadows Christ's ultimate victory over spiritual enemies 'greater and mightier' than we are—sin, death, and Satan—accomplished not by our strength but by divine grace.

Historical Context

The seven Canaanite nations had occupied the land for centuries, developing sophisticated urban cultures with formidable military technology (chariots, fortified cities). Archaeological evidence from Jericho, Hazor, and other sites confirms the military superiority these nations possessed. Their religious practices included child sacrifice, temple prostitution, and other abominations that had filled

up the measure of divine judgment (Leviticus 18:24-28). God's command to dispossess them demonstrates His role as Judge of all nations, executing temporal judgment on societies that had become irredeemably corrupt.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over nations shape your understanding of history and current events?
2. In what ways does Israel's conquest of Canaan foreshadow Christ's victory over spiritual enemies?
3. What spiritual 'nations' (strongholds, patterns of sin) in your life require God's power to overcome?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	בָּא	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	אֵל	הָאֶרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר
H3588	shall bring H935	When the LORD H3068	thy God H430	H413	thee into the land H776	H834
אֶתְּ	בָּא	שָׁמָּה	לְרִשְׁתָּהּ	וְנָשָׁא ל	גּוֹיִם	רַב־יָם
H859	shall bring H935	H8033	to possess H3423	it and hath cast out H5394	nations H1471	greater H7227
מִפְּנֵי	הַחִתִּי	וְהַגִּרְגָּשִׁי	וְהָאֱמֹרִי			
before H6440	thee the Hittites H2850	and the Gargashites H1622	and the Amorites H567			
וְהַכְנַעֲנִי	וְהַפְּרִזִּי	וְהַחִיִּי	וְהַיְבוּסִי	שִׁבְעָה		
and the Canaanites H3669	and the Perizzites H6522	and the Hivites H2340	and the Jebusites H2983	seven H7651		
גּוֹיִם	רַב־יָם	וְעֻצּוֹמֵי יָם	מִמֶּנֶּה			
nations H1471	greater H7227	and mightier H6099	H4480			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:19 (Parallel theme): And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot.

Deuteronomy 4:38 (Parallel theme): To drive out nations from before thee greater and mightier than thou art, to bring thee in, to give thee their land for an inheritance, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 31:3 (References God): The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.

Deuteronomy 20:1 (References God): When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not

afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 9:1 (Parallel theme): Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,

Exodus 33:2 (Parallel theme): And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:

Deuteronomy 9:4 (References God): Speak not thou in thine heart, after that the LORD thy God hath cast them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness the LORD hath brought me in to possess this land: but for the wickedness of these nations the LORD doth drive them out from before thee.

Psalms 78:55 (Parallel theme): He cast out the heathen also before them, and divided them an inheritance by line, and made the tribes of Israel to dwell in their tents.

Exodus 15:7 (Parallel theme): And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

Exodus 6:8 (References Lord): And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the LORD.