

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 Gergashites, 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, Gergashites, 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

Psalm 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

בָּא	כִּי	יְהִי	הָ	יְהִי	בָּא	אֵל	אֱלֹהִים	בָּא	אֵל	אָשֶׁר	בָּא	אֵל	אָשֶׁר
H3588	shall bring	When the LORD		thy God	H413	thee into the land	H834						
H935		H3068		H430	H776								
בָּא	אַתָּה	בָּא	שָׁמָה	לְרַשְׁתָּה	הַ	וְנִשְׁלַׁחַ	לְ	כָּבֵב	יְמִינְךָ	גָּדוֹלָה	בָּא	אַתָּה	
H859	shall bring	H8033	to possess	it and hath cast out	H5394	nations	H1471	greater	H7227				
H935		H3423		H5394	H1471								
מִפְנֵן	יְהִי	בְּחִתְנֵי	וּבְגִרְגָּשֵׁי	וּבְאָמֹרִי									
before	thee the Hittites	and the Gergashites	and the Amorites		H567								
H6440	H2850	H1622	H567										
וּבְכָנָעָן	וּבְפְרִזָּן	וּבְחִוִּי	וּבְיְבוּסָן	וּבְגִבְעָן	שְׁבַע	הָ							
and the Canaanites	and the Perizzites	and the Hivites	and the Jebusites	seven	H7651								
H3669	H6522	H2340	H2983										
מִלְּאָכָה	תִּצְׁרֹעָם	יְמִינְךָ											
nations	greater	and mightier	H4480										
H1471	H7227	H6099											

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.