

Joshua 12:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the mountains, and in the valleys, and in the plains, and in the springs, and in the wilderness, and in the south country; the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites:

Analysis

In the mountains, and in the valleys, and in the plains, and in the springs, and in the wilderness, and in the south country—This comprehensive geographic catalog uses six Hebrew terms for terrain types, emphasizing total conquest across every ecological zone. The har (הַר, 'mountains'), shephelah (שְׁפֵלָה, 'lowlands'), arabah (עֲרֵבָה, 'plains'), ashedoth (אֲשָׁדוֹת, 'slopes/springs'), midbar (מִדְבָּר, 'wilderness'), and negev (נֶגֶב, 'south country') represent Canaan's full topographical diversity.

The Hittites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites—The sixfold ethnic list (compare Exodus 3:8's sevenfold) catalogs the peoples Israel displaced under divine judgment for filling up the 'iniquity of the Amorites' (Genesis 15:16). This wasn't ethnic cleansing but covenant judgment executed through Israel as God's instrument, foreshadowing final judgment through Christ.

Historical Context

This catalog (12:7-24) functions as a victory monument in literary form, comparable to Egyptian and Mesopotamian king lists. The six terrain types represent Canaan's full ecological diversity from Mediterranean coast to Jordan

rift valley. The six ethnic groups (compare Exodus 3:8's seven) represent the peoples under divine judgment. Archaeological surveys confirm the geopolitical fragmentation described here—Canaan was divided into numerous small city-states, not unified kingdoms, making systematic conquest feasible.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the completeness of terrain types (mountains to wilderness) illustrate that Christian discipleship must engage every area of life, not just comfortable zones?
2. What does God's patient waiting until the Amorites' 'iniquity was full' (Genesis 15:16) teach about His justice being both certain and measured?
3. How should the reality of divine judgment through human agency inform your understanding of God's sovereignty in history?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| בְּהָרִים | וּבְשָׂפְלֵי הָ | וּבְעֲרֵבָה | וּבְאֵשְׁדֹת |
| In the mountains | and in the valleys | and in the plains | and in the springs |
| H2022 | H8219 | H6160 | H794 |
| וּבְמִדְבָּר | וּבְנֵי גֹב | הַחִתִּי | הָאֹמֹרִי |
| and in the wilderness | and in the south country | the Hittites | the Amorites |
| H4057 | H5045 | H2850 | H567 |
| וְהַכְּנַעֲנִי | הַפְּרִזִּי | הַחִוִּי | וְהַיְבוּסִי |
| and the Canaanites | the Perizzites | the Hivites | and the Jebusites |
| H3669 | H6522 | H2340 | H2983 |

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 11:16 (Parallel theme): So Joshua took all that land, the hills, and all the south country, and all the land of Goshen, and the valley, and the plain, and the mountain of Israel, and the valley of the same;

Joshua 10:40 (Parallel theme): So Joshua smote all the country of the hills, and of the south, and of the vale, and of the springs, and all their kings: he left none remaining, but utterly destroyed all that breathed, as the LORD God of Israel commanded.

Joshua 9:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when all the kings which were on this side Jordan, in the hills, and in the valleys, and in all the coasts of the great sea over against Lebanon, the Hittite, and the Amorite, the Canaanite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite, heard thereof;

Exodus 23:23 (Parallel theme): For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

Exodus 3:8 (Parallel theme): And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

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,

Deuteronomy 7:1 (Parallel theme): 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;