

SEVEN NATIONS

May 7, 1996

The majority of the time we think and act on the us-ward side of things, of events and of relationships. Moreover, when we pray, IF we pray, that prayer's focus is also from the us-ward side of things, even though those requests stem from *bona fide* needs and hurts of all kinds. Though by age we are adults, our dealings with our Maker remain childlike, not just from a positional standpoint, which is correct, but also from how WE see things, or what WE want, or what WE need; like a child, we rarely consider what God wants, needs or deserves. No? Then check it out the next time you pray...

Accordingly, we view the Bible being written for the benefit of Mankind, of how God has been, and is dealing with Man. Then stories like Annanias and Sapphira pop up, Korah's rebellion, John on the Isle of Patmos, the death of all seventy sons of Ahab, and phrases like "the wrath of the Lamb"; then we begin to suspect all is not geared to us-ward.

In fact, when we delve deeply into the Book, we see clearly what was given as a Word of Knowledge to a young man several years ago. This special understanding is:

The Due Order of God's Interests

1. The Glory and Honor of God
2. The Purity of the Bride of Christ
3. The Salvation of Man

Because our thinking as well as our responses to events is based on the latter, our lives remain on that plane. We slobber when someone rings our bell, and rarely rise above our troubles, or above the events that shape our lives. We continue to respond like Pavlov's dog. Many of our sorrows and hard scrapes are lumped into some formless pit called No Name, Fate, Coincidence, or Life. Worse yet, we call them all a part of God's Will, as if to relieve ourselves of the responsibility of finding a definable source. Indeed, to come up with some cause-effect explanation requires more than a simple hot pan-burnt fingers mentality.

One of the most significant scriptures comes from I Corinthians 10:6 and 11, where Paul refers to the Old Testament scriptures "as being written for our instruction (warnings)." Where else would the New Testament Christians have gotten any direction? So in understanding this principle of the Old Testament being a picture or example for us, we can then understand that all the physical events shaping the early people of Israel have spiritual implications for us in this New Testament age. Paul told Timothy that "all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training for righteousness..." This was written in 66 A.D.; how could he have been referring to the New Testament? It was not even written then!! Further, "It is not the spiritual which is first, but the physical, then the spiritual." (I Corinthians 15:46)

Jesus said of the Old Testament, “that not one jot nor tittle would pass away from the Law, until all was fulfilled.” In Galatians 6:16, the Apostle Paul writes that “we are the Israel of God,” emphasizing the validity of the Old Testament as being appropriate for us. Moreover, it is not only appropriate, but the only real clear physical picture of understanding the spiritual realm that we have. If we are the spiritual Israel of God, then those things that happened to physical Israel should give us insight as to the things that can and will happen to us. Their physical experiences should bear witness to our spiritual experiences.

The Old Testament is not only a record of God's relationship to man, but a detailed record of God's perspective to everything. What seems to be a random pattern of stories, genealogies and endless cycles of miracles, repentance, and judgments turns out to be an intricate mosaic of cause and effect, of God trying His best to bring about a People for Himself. While we find within the Old Testament stories names and places that are hard-to-pronounce, they usually have meaning that is significant. These may alienate the reader from wanting to read and study, but they often are an important part of the whole.

Therefore, let us turn to the Old Testament to see how God's interests are explained and demonstrated in the physical arena. Then we can more clearly see the connection of God's interests in the spiritual realm that affects us today.

A. The Egypt-Exodus-Red Sea-Wilderness-Law sequence is a physical picture of the spiritual sequence of release from the bondage of sin, the leaving of one kingdom and the entering of another, water and Spirit Baptism, death to self, and our schoolmaster, respectively.

= SALVATION OF MAN

B. David is a picture of the Kingly Christ, the gathering of gold (deity, Holiness), etc., and the present-day realm of worship.

= PURITY OF THE BRIDE

C. The Solomonic reign and temple is a picture of the millennium.

= THE GLORY OF GOD

We are prone to focus on the purpose of A as being the Salvation of Man. We are also prone to focus on the purpose of Jesus as being solely for the deliverance of Man from the bondage of sin, in order to *save* human kind from the fires of Hell. We all too often *see* the purpose of the Old Testament as being for the Salvation of Man. We erringly view salvation as THE end of things, as THE purpose of all God does to, in, and for us.

The Accuser knows the Glory of God is the End of all things. Satan detests God receiving that glory and uses all forms of obstruction to prevent it. Elevating the Salvation of Man above the other two is the best way of bringing that about, usually in the form of appealing to our sense of well-being, whatever that may be. We stupidly respond to those obstructions and obfuscations in the most primitive and carnal ways, instead of realizing what's happening as it is happening, or the spiritual root cause.

Thus Israel is a physical picture of the Bride today. Coming out of Egypt to the Promised Land she was supposed to have entered that Land, destroyed the enemy, remained pure and holy, and become the head and not the tail. She was also to have been the lender and not the borrower, the winner and not the loser, and remained uncontaminated. As such, Israel was to have been a Pure Bride. It didn't happen. It represents the place of the Purity of the Bride, from which God would have pure Seed to be His Son's Bride, all to His Honor and Glory. It did not work in the physical, but He is now working to accomplish this in the spiritual.

To properly understand the depths of evil of the inhabitants of Canaan and why God wanted them defeated, it is necessary to trace their lineage, their heritage. Since they are post-deluvian, whatever heritage they have comes from the seed of Noah and his three sons Shem, Ham and Japheth.

The name Shem (the oldest) means to bless God, and v.v.; one marked, definite, conspicuous position, authority, character. Shem sired Elam, Asshur, Arxphaxad, Lud and Aram. These settled eastward from Turkey and beyond.

The name Japheth (the second-born) means expansion; to flatter, persuade, enlarge. He sired Gomer (completion), Madai, Tubal (wealth, fruit), Dodamim, Magog (barbarious), Javan and Kittim. These settled to the north in what is now Europe and beyond to the northeast and west.

The name Ham (the youngest) means hot; inflamed self. He sired Cush (Ethiopians), Mizraim (Egypt; which means limit, besieged place, distress, stronghold, cramped place, an adversary), Phut (Libya), and Canaan (humiliated). These settled to the south, in Egypt, North Africa and beyond to the south.¹

Twice in Genesis 9, there is a reference to Ham being the father of Canaan, as if to put special emphasis upon that fact. The other sons' progeny were just as infamous and evil as Canaan. Ham's other son Cush sired Nimrod, who settled Babel and Nineveh. Mizraim (Egypt) was the epitome of idolatry and wickedness in high fashion.

Canaan's descendants settled in Gaza, Sodom and Gomorrah, home of all types of sexual perverseness, homosexuality being only one. Canaan sired Sidon, uncle of Sihon, King of the Amorites (a type of Satan himself), Heth (Hittites), the Jebusites, Girgashites, Hivites, Arkites, Zervarites and Hamathites. The Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites, Girgashites and the Hivites were five of the seven nations (a people defined by context) that were occupants of Canaan at the time of the Israelite invasion under Joshua.

As such, the occupants of Canaan were enemies of Israel, and the Enemies of The Bride. In Israel's day, the enemies were physical; today they are spiritual. Then, as now, spiritual beings dominated, inhabited, and manifested their individual evil natures through the men, women and children that lived in the land, to the point of complete corruption.

Deuteronomy 7:1-7 clearly details how the Israelites (and by spiritual extension, New Testament believers) were to treat the seven nations that were the inhabitants of the land of Canaan. God explained what He would do and what Israel's responsibility was to do or not do. He specifically forbid them to make any covenants with them, (contracts, partnerships, alliances, etc.) or to enter into any marriages with them. Why specifically marriages? Because entering into a marriage union involves all of our makeup, our mind-will-emotions, our bodies, and our spirits. Paul instructs us in Ephesians 5:21-32, specifically verse 32, that marriage is a mystery, and the union of a man and a woman refers to Christ and the *ekklesia* (incorrectly translated 'church'). In other words, the 'church' is the Bride, and our relationship to Christ is supposed to be as in a marriage. So it is clear that the same enemies of marriage are the same enemies of the Bride. Marriage is our earthly training ground for our marriage to the Lamb, the Bridegroom.

Deuteronomy 7:1 lists the seven nations the children of Israel were to destroy as the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. God said He would give them over to Israel, and they were to be utterly destroyed. Now "destroy" means to do away with, to remove totally and to eradicate. Why? -because these people were totally corrupt, totally given over to the natures of Satan; --beyond repentance, beyond reaching, beyond warning, beyond salvation of any kind. The spirits of evil that overshadowed them were pervasive, reaching even unto the women and children, even the cattle and livestock. Why were the children included? Because they not only inherited the natures of their fathers and mothers, they absorbed those evil natures, if by no other reason than condoning the actions of their fathers. *Deja vu* Sodom and Gomorrah! The children pick up on the model, and inclinations of their parents' traditions are passed down father to son, mother to daughter, just as they are today. Each is responsible and accountable for their own sin, but that doesn't stop the traditions from being passed down.

We easily accept the passing down of physical attributes such as our noses and height, or our red hair and eye color; we accept the passing down of mental acumen, such as IQ or even piano playing, or math ability; many accept, even vocalize, the passing down of traits such as a hot temper, being *easy going*, or other behavioral traits. Christians even brag about the passing down of spiritual blessings; but dare to mention the passing down of evil spiritual attachments and behavior, and up comes the raised fist

The following is an understanding of what is coming up against me and my marriage; against the young women and young men my children will date; up against their spouses, whomever they may yet be; and against any and all marriages within the Church; it is an understanding long in coming, intense and disturbing, and urgent in its delivery. It is all the above, coupled with the definitions of the seven Nations of the Canaanites, that unmistakably is a clear warning from the Lord to us today.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, the thrust of this paper is this: just as the character traits in physical lineage of the Girgashites persisted for some two thousand years from the time of Joshua until the time of Christ, so the character traits of it and the other six persist until today, not as physical peoples, but as **SPIRITS!** These same seven major spirits of the Antichrist remain just as viable, influential, present and infectious as they were 4000 years ago! They have exactly the same surface expressions that they did 4000 years ago, meant to accomplish the same thing-- to disguise the mental and root causes of destruction!

The same tactics used by the enemy then are used today--subterfuge and deceit; like the leaves of a tree being what you see, and in the case of evil, what you address. They are the visible, the tangible, just as the surface expressions of evil are. The leaves disguise the branches, which are the second level of the analogy. Rarely, if ever, are the roots of situations ever discovered, let alone addressed. Roots are hidden, and well so; roots are buried deep, but supply the energy and strength for the branches and leaves to survive. Take any occult or secret organization--the first levels are always painted the best, but as you get deeper and deeper, the more you discover the true meaning of the group. This is well known in the Hare Krishna, the Mormons, or *mystery* fraternal organizations. They pull in the unsuspecting by means of whatever is important to the initiate; for some it is acceptance, for some it is power, for some it is being a part of a power group, or part of what appears to be a group of very distinguished men. By the time one learns the real root of things, deceit has been accomplished, and you cannot *hear* or *see* anymore.

Regardless of the deceit, violation of God's authority and precepts bring down evil on the descendants of those caught in the web of these seven major spirits. Pointedly, the evil brought down upon these is characteristically hidden as to its source and cause! There is a sort of helplessness, a sense of a hidden wall of no explanation, a web of silence and strength-sapping resiliency that won't crack. Why? --because the roots are hidden, and all we see are the leaves that look so good. This is why in I Peter 3:19 it is written, Jesus went down into the pits of Hell itself to proclaim who He was--to the Roots themselves!

"You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, and your land no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you." (Isaiah 62)

The following is a chart explaining the evil spirits behind the seven key nations the Israelites encountered in Canaan. While the names of the people groups may have changed, the spirits behind them and operative upon them are still in existence. Satan is still trying to destroy all that has any chance of becoming a source of glory to God and ultimately a part of the Bride of Christ.

The following is a synopsis of these Seven Spirits, their physical, mental, and spiritual meanings, along with the present-day expression of each.²

<u>NATION</u>	<u>VISIBLE PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTE</u>	<u>HIDDEN MENTAL "NAME"</u>	<u>V. HIDDEN SPIRITUAL ROOT</u>	<u>U.S.A. PRESENT DAY EXPRESSION</u>
HITTITES	"terror" shock	fear, terror, loss of control	FEAR	welfare system, insurance, control freaks
AMORITES	"to say"	boast of self, challenge	PRIDE, arrogance	"me" generation faithlessness self first, despots
GIRGASHITES	** "clay dwellers"	self-sufficiency	ABDICATION	role reversals, wife taking lead, status quo, cowardice, effeminacy as fruit
CANAANITES	"merchant"	to humiliate, vanquish, subdue	LUST lewd, corrupt, contaminating	pornography, worship of creation self-pleasure
PERIZZITES towns"	"unwalled gullible	unconcerned unbelief presumptuous ignorant careless	SIMPLE no absolutes	reluctance to learn, emotion driven, situational ethics perverted discipline
HIVITES	"villager"	to declare, quicken	REBELLION, circumvent God's authority	new age, occult, oaths, scorn of Christ
JEBUSITES	"threshing place"	loathed, polluted, trodden down	BLASPHEMY worthlessness hopelessness	low self esteem racial self-pity promoting hate

** Other than in this Deuteronomy reference, the Girkashites are not mentioned again in the Old Testament. The next mention is in the New Testament in Matthew 8:28, in the story about the demoniacs possessed by a legion of demons. It is more than coincidence that this is the only one of the seven nations physically left, but that it survived some two thousand years! Note the reaction and character of these people.

1. _____, The Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version (Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1971) Map Section

2. Spiros Zodhiates, The Hebrew-Greek Study Bible (AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1985) Lexicon

Post Script June 3, 2012

As will be seen in *He Who Overcomes*, the Seven Nations against whom Israel was pitted were the physical representations of spiritual forces. These were occupying land that was to have been Holy ground for God's people Israel. The order from God to completely annihilate them signified these Seven were completely given over to Satan, thus incapable of being converted.

As is seen in scripture and the paper *He Who Overcomes*, these Seven are spiritual forces which invaded, robbed, raped and destroyed Israel. They are also the forces which do the same today in the spiritual realm, specifically our subconscious where our affections, appetites and buried long-term memories reside. As is seen in the chart, their names mean things, just as our (spiritual) names mean things.

A most difficult and inflammatory subject; in most cases, it is avoided at all costs by diversions such as anger, denial, accusations toward the messenger, and/or finger pointing toward someone else. Being in the spiritual realm, deliverance of any of these is accomplished only by the Holy Spirit when, where, and how He decides.

I was delivered of Lust, in just such a manner. I wept until I could not weep any more. I was also delivered of the taste of tobacco and the desire of whiskey, though I had not reached the point of addiction of the latter. As a sweet woman said, "A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument." I *know* He delivers. I also *know* He can drive out the marauders from my land; He has done so.

May He be allowed to deliver you, stop the robbery, and begin the joy of being His.

Ben-Issachar