

WHY CANAAN IS IMPORTANT



By Leiann Walther

Why Canaan Is Important Key Scriptures

A Strange Story: Genesis 9:18-27

The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth. Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked.

Strange Names: Genesis 10:6-20

The sons of Ham: Cush, **Egypt**, Put and **Canaan**. The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah and Sabteka. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. Cush was the father of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before the LORD." The first centers of his kingdom were **Babylon**, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh, in Shinar. From that land he **went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh**, Rehoboth Ir, Calah and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city.

Strange Customs: Leviticus 11-18

FOOD: "There are some that only chew the cud or only have a divided hoof, but you must not eat them. The camel, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is ceremonially **unclean** for you. The hyrax, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is **unclean** for you. The rabbit, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is **unclean** for you. And the pig, though it has a divided hoof, does not chew the cud; it is **unclean** for you. You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are **unclean** for you... You must **distinguish between the unclean and the clean**, between living creatures that may be eaten and those that may not be eaten."

LEPROSY: "When anyone has a defiling skin disease, they must be brought to the priest. The priest is to examine them, and if there is a white swelling in the skin that has turned the hair white and if there is raw flesh in the swelling, it is a chronic skin disease and the priest shall pronounce them **unclean**.

MILDEW: On the seventh day he is to examine it, and if the mold has spread in the fabric, the woven or knitted material, or the leather, whatever its use, it is a persistent defiling mold; the article is **unclean**.

A Strange Command: Exodus 23:23/Deuteronomy 9

My angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out.

But be assured today that the LORD your God is the one who goes across ahead of you like a devouring fire. He will destroy them; he will subdue them before you. And you will drive them out and annihilate them quickly, as the LORD has promised you. After the LORD your God has driven them out before you, do not say to yourself, "The LORD has brought me here to take possession of this land because of my righteousness." No, **it is on account of the wickedness of these nations** that the LORD is going to drive them out before you. It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; **but on account of the wickedness of these nations**, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

References and Resources

Readings from the Ancient Near East by Bill Arnold and Bryan Beyer

Why the Jews? By Dennis Prager

Is God a Moral Monster? By Paul Copan

Bible History Old Testament, by Alfred Edersheim

Kingdom of Priests: A History of the Old Testament by Eugene H. Merrill

Peoples of the Old Testament World, edited by Alfred Hoerth, Gerald Mattingly, and Edwin Yamauchi

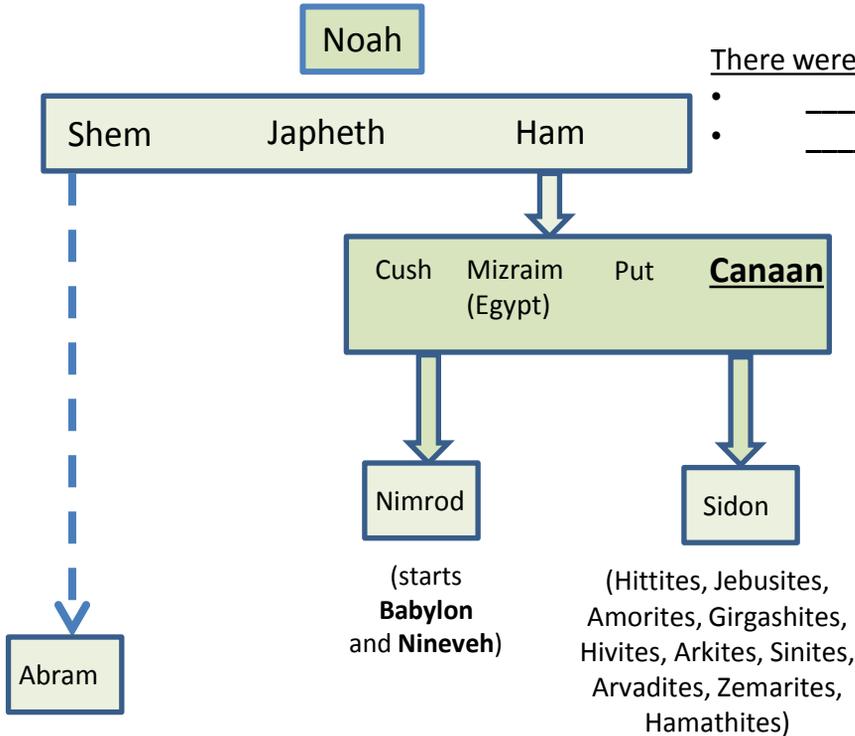
Israel in the Times of the Gentiles, by Dr. Terry C. Hulbert

Why Canaan is Important

A Strange Story: Genesis 9:18-27

Introduces us to Canaan--

The morally _____ son of Ham, grandson of _____, that becomes the father of the _____ but morally corrupt _____ that are opposed to God's people and God's _____ of LIVING.



Strange Names: Genesis 10:6-20

Tells us _____ the main players are and that there is a _____ going on--

- The people under God's _____
- The people who (knowingly or unknowingly) are under Satan's _____.

The Israelites (from _____) were to be representatives of God's way of living and the Canaanites (from Canaan) were representative of man's _____.

Why Canaan is Important

Geography:

- It compares in land size to the state of New Jersey.
- Canaan is “the land _____” the major civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia and had two major highways that went through the land.
- It was different from Egypt, which depended on the Nile River, because it depended on _____ the system of cisterns was developed.

Culture:

Baal was the god of _____ and had to be appeased and provoked to send _____. Asherah, the consort of Baal, provided fertility on the earth. The trees were her symbol and eventually even a _____ was used to represent her presence. Shrines to Baal and Asherah started on the hills (“_____”) but eventually also were in the valleys and cities.

Canaanite religion was grossly _____ because it required the services of male and female prostitutes at the shrines to evoke Baal to send _____.

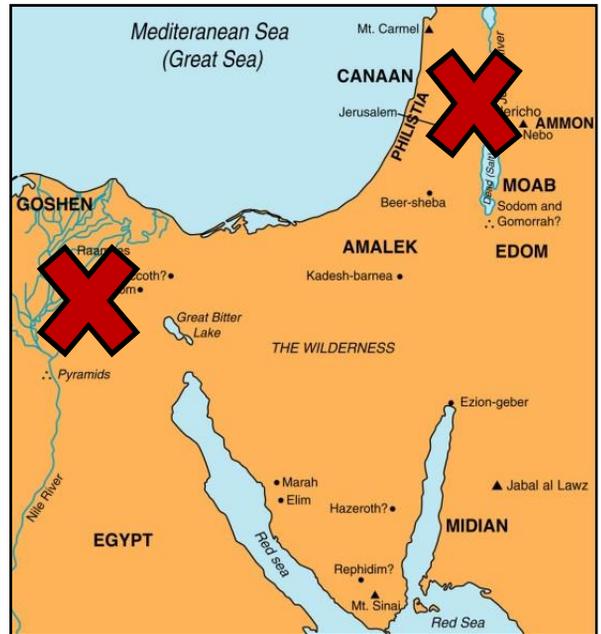
Combined with these practices was

- ritual child sacrifice to appease the gods,
 - sorcery,
 - divination and
 - witchcraft
- to gain power over the forces of nature.

The Canaanites were to be destroyed not because of their ethnicity but because of their normalized corrupt _____ of life.

The Israelites were warned that if they adopted the same way of life from the Canaanites, they would be _____ in a similar way. (Deuteronomy 9:4)

God was going to set up a _____ and HOLY way of living as a light to the nations.



“You are My Redeemed people.

I bought you and brought you out of Egypt. I paid for you with the blood (life) of the lamb.”

You must not do as they do in _____, where you used to live, and you must not do as they do in the land of _____, where I am bringing you.

Do not follow their practices.

Leviticus 18:3

What was God teaching His people about RAIN and WATER while they were in the Wilderness?

Why Canaan is Important

Strange Customs: Leviticus 11-18
Tells us _____ they are to live--
"You are a Kingdom of Priests to show
the nations how to live holy."
(cr Exodus 19:6)

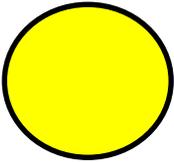
The priest



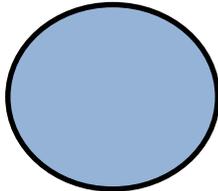
what the nation Israel



was to the
nation _____



was to be to the
rest of the _____.



The Priests' Job

1. _____
2. *Distinguish*

_____.
3. Teach God's

**This wasn't just in the Old Testament.
Peter wrote to the Believers—**

WHO they are:

You are God's Redeemed people.
1 Peter 1:18



HOW they are to live:

You are a Kingdom of
to show others how to live holy.
1 Peter 2:9

Be alert and of sober mind.

In fact, though by this time you
ought to be teachers,

the mature, by constant use,
have trained themselves to
distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:11-14

Why Canaan is Important

“UNCLEAN” 184 times in OT

116 are in Leviticus

Leviticus 11 Food Laws

Food = the _____ and _____ that I take into my _____ and affections.

Where do I get my ideas?

- Who influences what I think?
- Are they living lives pleasing to God according to His revealed ways?
- Are they living lives according to man’s understanding?

Leviticus 13 Leprosy Laws

Leprosy = the _____ believes that adhere to my thinking leading to _____ of conscience so that I am willing to _____ in corrupt practices that damage my soul and bring judgment.

- What have I allowed to penetrate the barrier of my conscience so that it now no longer bothers me?
- What used to seem “so bad” that now seems “so tame”? Romans 1:18ff

Leviticus 13 Mildew Laws

Mildew = how evil _____. It must be quickly removed and cleansed. Who are my closest friends and how do they live? Do not be misled: **“Bad company corrupts good character.”** I Corinthians 15:33

Leviticus 18 Unclean Practices of Canaanites

- Incest vs. 6-16
- Multiple sex partners vs. 17
- Adultery vs. 20
- Homosexuality vs. 22
- Bestiality vs. 23
- Prostitution 19:29
- Child sacrifices 20:1-5
- Occult practices: “readers,” spiritism, mediums, witchcraft, seances

Leviticus 19 “Don’t Mix”

- Two kinds of _____
- Two kinds of _____
- Two kinds of _____

“I don’t do any of those things!”

Uncleanness comes from inside of us: (Jesus said) “What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, envy, slander, arrogance, and folly. All these come from inside and defile a person.” Mk. 7

- Through reading?
- Through watching?
- Through fantasizing?
- Through indifference?
- Through humor?
- Through close friendships?
- Through “light” versions?
- Through silence?

Why Canaan is Important

A Strange Command:

Exodus 23:23, Deuteronomy 20:17

The Israelites were warned that if they adopted the same way of life from the Canaanites, they would be judged in a _____ way. (Deuteronomy 9:4)
There were serious consequences, even judgment, from living the lifestyle based on Satan's lies.

There are two distinct groups of people:

- The people of God.
- The people who (knowingly or unknowingly) are under Satan.

There are two distinct **ways** of living:

- **Revealed** by God.
- **Reasoned** out by man.

What happens if someone says they are the people of God but they live by the reasoning of man?

The Promises of God and Selective Hearing

Abraham	Moses	Solomon	
2000 BC	1500	1000	<u>586</u>

The promise of the land to Abraham and his descendants was given to Abraham, but the living and enjoying the land was _____ on their obedience to His law and way of living. This system may sound "harsh" until one realizes that from the time they agreed to these terms, until they were actually removed from the land was almost _____ years later.

The Warnings of God through Jeremiah

My people have committed two evils

1. Rejected the source of living _____.
2. Made broken _____ for themselves that don't hold water.

Jeremiah 2

The Waistband:

- _____ to the owner
- Be _____ in the ground
- Become _____

Jeremiah 13

After the Babylonian Captivity, Baal worship was not re-established in Canaan when the Jews returned.

Babylon removed the inhabitants and killed the resistance movement of fighters, brutally taking over control of the land in 586 B.C.

(Note: there doesn't seem to be an outcry against what they did.)

Why Canaan is Important

How does someone live a **clean** life when they are the only one in their surroundings to do so? When everything around them is **“unclean”**?

Noah

Lot

Rahab

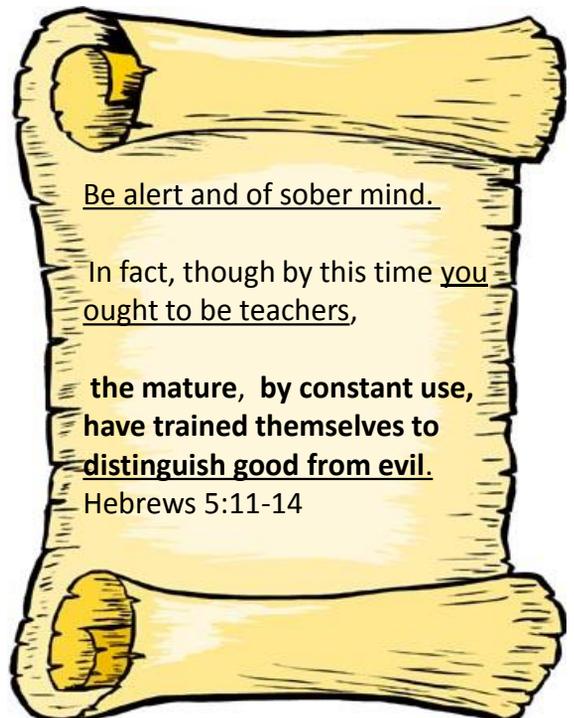
Jeremiah
Daniel
Ezekiel

*Then the Lord knows how to _____ the godly from _____,
and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment. II Peter 2:9*

Both the Old and New Testaments end with themes from Canaan:

On that day there will no longer be a **Canaanite** in the house of the Lord Almighty. Zechariah 14:21

and **nothing unclean**, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, **but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.** Revelation 21:27



Be alert and of sober mind.

In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers,

the mature, by constant use, have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Hebrews 5:11-14