

PLEASE NOTE - The references below are taken from the 86-21 Index. Many verses have additional references that have not been included due to time & space. We are encouraged to do additional personal research.

(Deuteronomy 9:5) 5 It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to take possession of their land. Instead, it is because of the wickedness of these nations that Jehovah your God is driving them away from before you and in order to carry out the word that Jehovah swore to your forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

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Why Jehovah Evicted Both Canaanites and Israelites

ONE man said, "I love to criticize others—it makes me feel so good." With such an attitude, how superior must those feel who love to criticize Jehovah God! Higher critics frequently label Jehovah a bloodthirsty tribal god of the Jews. One clergyman denounced him as a dirty bully. To justify such name-calling, presumptuous critics cite Jehovah's ousting of the Canaanites from their land in order to give it to the Jews.

Such a charge reflects gross ignorance. Moses, as Jehovah's spokesman, made God's reason clear to the Jews: "It is not for your righteousness or for the uprightness of your heart that you are going in to take possession of their land; in fact, it is for the wickedness of these nations that Jehovah your God is driving them away from before you."—Deuteronomy 9:5.

It was the wickedness of the Canaanites that got them ousted. After identifying Baal as their principal god and Ashtoreth, his wife, as their principal goddess, Halley's Bible Handbook, revised edition, says: "Temples of Baal and Ashtoreth were usually together. Priestesses were temple prostitutes. Sodomites were male temple prostitutes. The worship of Baal, Ashtoreth, and other Canaanite gods consisted of the most extravagant orgies; their temples were centers of vice."—Page 166.

In the debris of one of these "high places" of Canaanite times, archaeologists "found great numbers of jars containing the remains of children who had been sacrificed to Baal. The whole area proved to be a cemetery for new-born babes." Also found were "enormous quantities of images and plaques of Ashtoreth with rudely exaggerated sex organs, designed to foster sensual feelings. So, Canaanites worshiped, by immoral indulgence, as a religious rite, in the presence of their gods; and then, by murdering their first-born children, as a sacrifice to these same gods."—Pages 166, 167.

Halley's then asks: "Do we wonder any longer why God commanded Israel to exterminate the Canaanites? Did a civilization of such abominable filth and brutality have any right longer to exist? . . . Archaeologists who dig in the ruins of Canaanite cities wonder that God did not destroy them sooner than He did."—Page 167.

The Emphasized Bible, a translation by J. B. Rotherham, says on page 259: "Who shall say that the Most High has not the right to extinguish such polluters of the earth and contaminants of mankind as these?"

Jehovah told Israel why the Canaanites were being thrown out: "Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, because by all these things the nations whom I am sending out from before you have made themselves unclean. Consequently the land is unclean, and I shall bring punishment for its error upon it, and the land will vomit its inhabitants out." He then gave blunt warning to Israel: "And you people must keep all my statutes and all my judicial decisions and do them, that the land to which I am bringing you to dwell in it may not vomit you out."—Leviticus 18:24-26; 20:22.

The message is clear. The Canaanites were removed because they polluted the land by their gross immorality—their adultery, their homosexuality, and their shedding of the blood of babies.

(Deuteronomy 9:16) 16 Then I looked and saw that you had sinned against Jehovah your God! You had made a metal calf for yourselves. You had turned aside quickly from the path Jehovah had commanded you to follow.

*** it-1 p. 207 Astrologers ***

Molech and Astrology in Israel. There is evidence to show that astrology was closely allied with the worship of Molech, a god who was sometimes depicted with a bull's head. The bull was worshiped by the Babylonians, Canaanites, Egyptians, and others as a symbol of their deities—Marduk, Molech, Baal, and so forth. The bull was one of the most important signs of the zodiac, Taurus. The sun-god was often represented by bulls, the horns signifying the rays, and the bull's strong reproductive power, the sun's power as "giver of life." The female, the cow, was given equal honor as a symbol of Ishtar or Astarte, as she was variously called. So when Aaron and Jeroboam introduced in Israel such worship of the bull (calf worship) it was indeed a great sin in Jehovah's eyes.—Ex 32:4, 8; De 9:16; 1Ki 12:28-30; 2Ki 10:29.

(Deuteronomy 10:5) 5 Then I turned and went down the mountain and placed the tablets in the ark that I had made, where they remain, just as Jehovah had commanded me.

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"In the third month after the sons of Israel came out of the land of Egypt," they entered the wilderness of Sinai. (Exodus 19:1, 2) Thereafter, Moses went up into Mount Sinai and received the two stone tablets of the Law. He relates: "Then I turned and went down from the mountain and placed the tablets in the ark that I had made, that they might continue there, just as Jehovah had commanded me." (Deuteronomy 10:5) This was a temporary ark, or container, that Jehovah had told Moses to construct to hold the tablets of the Law. (Deuteronomy 10:1) The ark of the covenant was not made ready until about the end of 1513 B.C.E.

(Deuteronomy 10:17) 17 For Jehovah your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the God great, mighty, and awe-inspiring, who treats none with partiality and does not accept a bribe.

*** rr chap. 4 pp. 44-45 par. 10 Who Are "the Living Creatures With Four Faces"? ***

10 Justice. As the God who "loves justice," Jehovah "treats none with partiality." (Ps. 37:28; Deut. 10:17) Thus, the opportunity to become and remain his servants and to receive eternal blessings is open to all of us regardless of our social standing or background. Wisdom. As the God who "is wise in heart," Jehovah has provided a book full of "practical wisdom." (Job 9:4; Prov. 2:7) Applying the Bible's wise counsel helps us to deal with life's day-to-day challenges and to live meaningful lives. Power. As the God who is "great in power," Jehovah uses his holy spirit to give us "power beyond what is normal." This strengthens us to cope with whatever severe and painful trials we may face.—Nah. 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:7; Ps. 46:1.