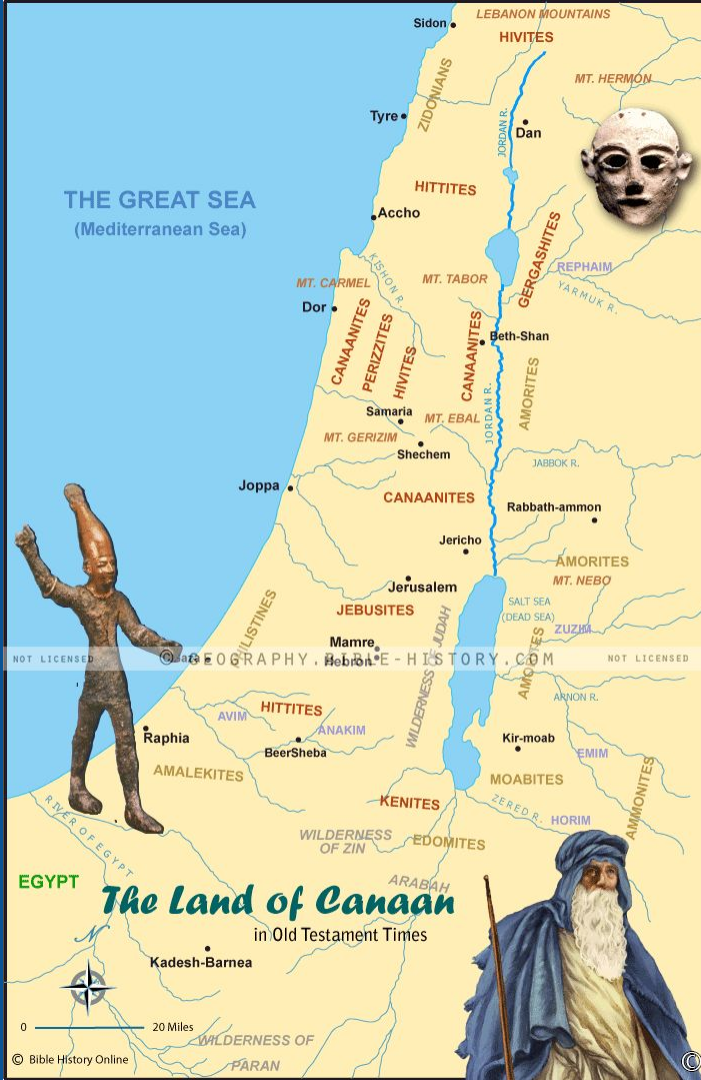


**CANAN, THE CANAANITES
AND THE AND OF CANAAN**

Societal Norms and Practices

Canaanite society was organized into city-states, each ruled by its king. These city-states were often in conflict with one another, but they shared common cultural and religious practices. The Canaanites were known for their advanced urban centers, fortified cities, and trade networks. Archaeological findings have revealed that they were skilled in metallurgy, pottery, and textile production.

The moral and ethical standards of Canaanite society, as depicted in the Bible, were in stark contrast to those commanded by God to the Israelites. Practices such as idolatry, sexual immorality, and violence were prevalent. The Israelites were repeatedly warned to avoid these practices and to remain distinct as a people set apart for God. In [Leviticus 18:3](#), God commands, "You must not do as they do in the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you. Do not follow their practices."



Genesis 9:22-24 NASB 1995

²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw **the nakedness of his father**, and told his two brothers outside. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward **and covered the nakedness of their father**; and their faces were turned away, **so that they did not see their father's nakedness.** ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him.

Genesis 9:24-27 New American Standard Bible 1995

²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. ²⁵ So he said,

“Cursed be Canaan;
A servant of servants
He shall be to his brothers.”

26 He also said,

“Blessed be YHWH,

The God of Shem;

And let Canaan be his servant.

27 “May Elohim enlarge Japheth,

And let him dwell in the tents of Shem;

And let Canaan be his servant.”

Leviticus 18:6-19 NASB 1995

⁶ ‘None of you shall approach any blood relative of his to uncover nakedness; I am YHWH. ⁷ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, that is, the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother; you are not to uncover her nakedness. ⁸ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father’s wife; it is your father’s nakedness.

⁹ The nakedness of your sister, *either* your father's daughter or your mother's daughter, whether born at home or born outside, their nakedness you shall not uncover. ¹⁰ The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for their nakedness is yours. ¹¹ The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, born to your father, she is your sister, you shall not uncover her nakedness.

¹² You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is your father's blood relative. ¹³ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is your mother's blood relative. ¹⁴ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother; you shall not approach his wife, she is your aunt. ¹⁵ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your daughter-in-law; she is your son's wife, you shall not uncover her nakedness. ¹⁶ You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.

17 You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and of her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness; they are blood relatives. It is lewdness. ¹⁸

You shall not marry a woman in addition to her sister as a rival while she is alive, to uncover her nakedness.

19 'Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness during her menstrual impurity.

The oracle in [Genesis 9:25-27](#) outlines:

- Canaan's subjugation to Shem (*fulfilled as Israel occupies Canaan*).
- Japheth dwelling "in the tents of Shem" (*realized in the Gentile inclusion within the blessings mediated through the line of Shem, culminating in the gospel reaching the nations, [Acts 10](#)*).

Thus Ham being called "father of Canaan" signals a prophecy that reverberates through the rest of Scripture.

Bible Nations Descended from Noah's Sons

NOAH

JAPHETH

Greeks
Thracians
Scythians

HAM

Canaanites
Egyptians
Philistines
Hittites
Amorites

SHEM

Hebrews
Chaldeans
Assyrians
Persians
Syrians

Where the Descendants Settled

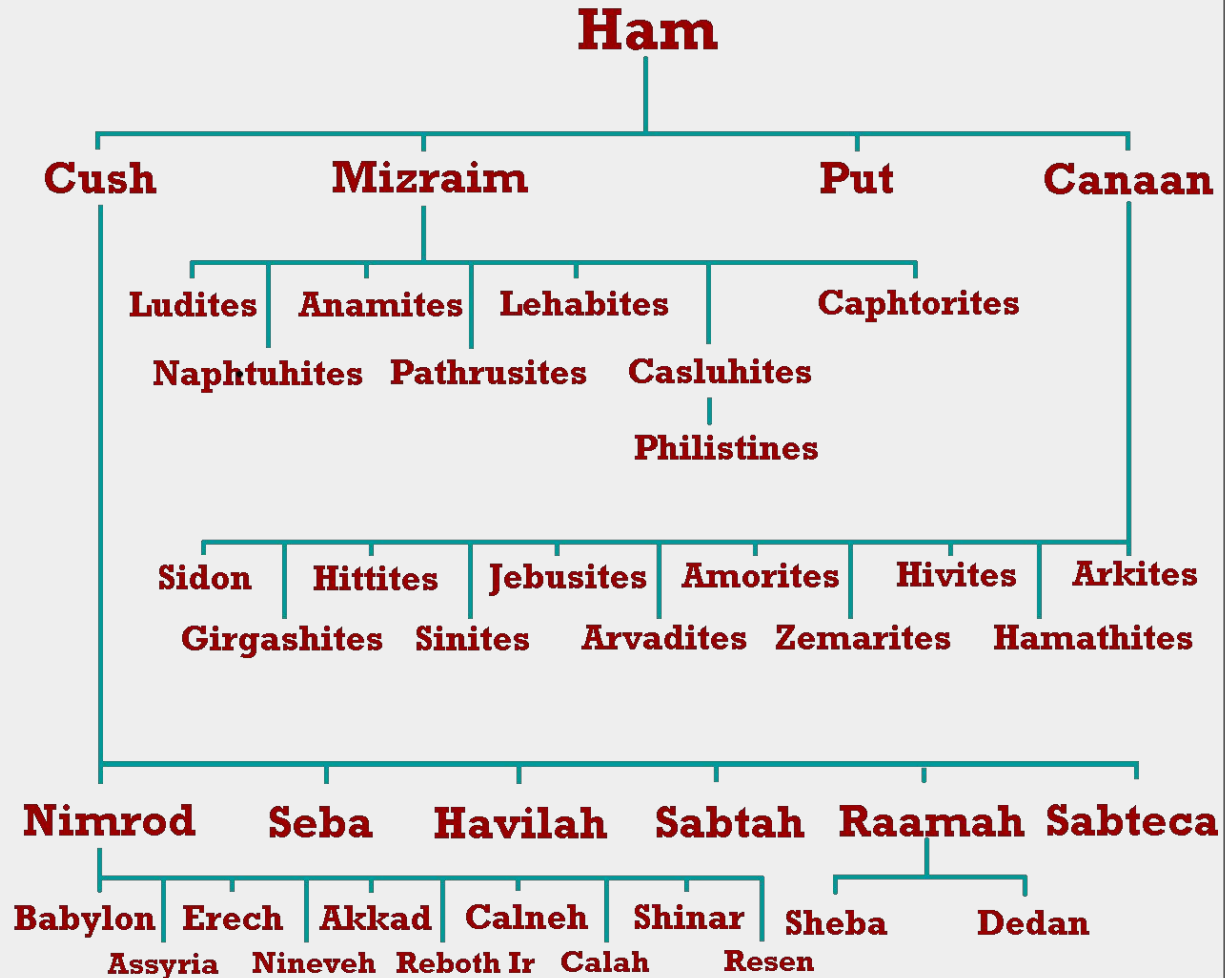
For the most part,
JAPHETH'S
descendants settled
in
• Europe
• Asia Minor

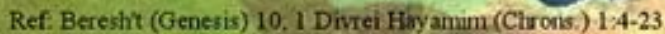
HAM'S descendants
settled in
• Canaan
• Egypt
• Africa

SHEM'S descendants
were called the Semites:
• Abraham
• Isaac
• Jacob
• David
• Jesus



The Genealogy of Ham





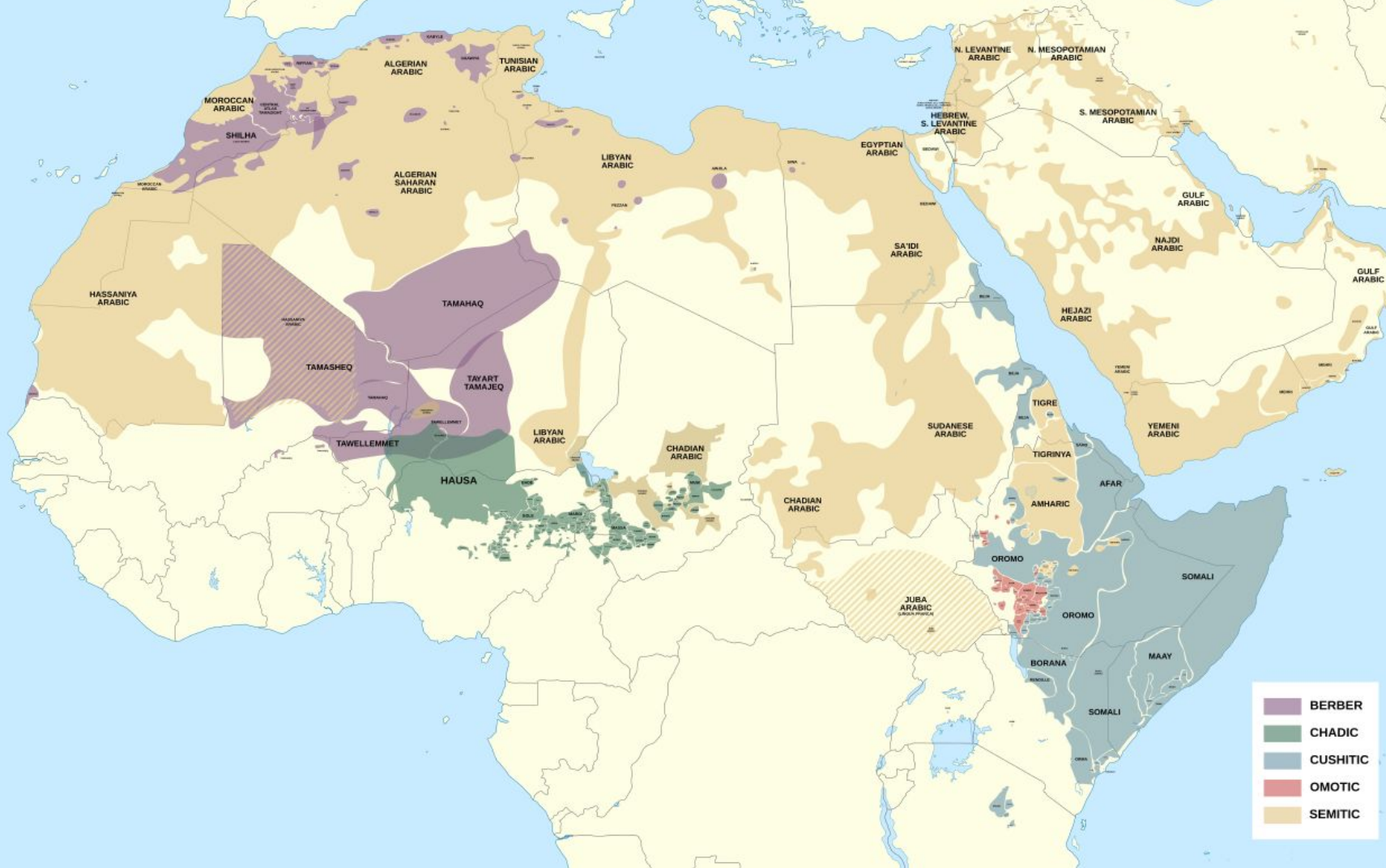
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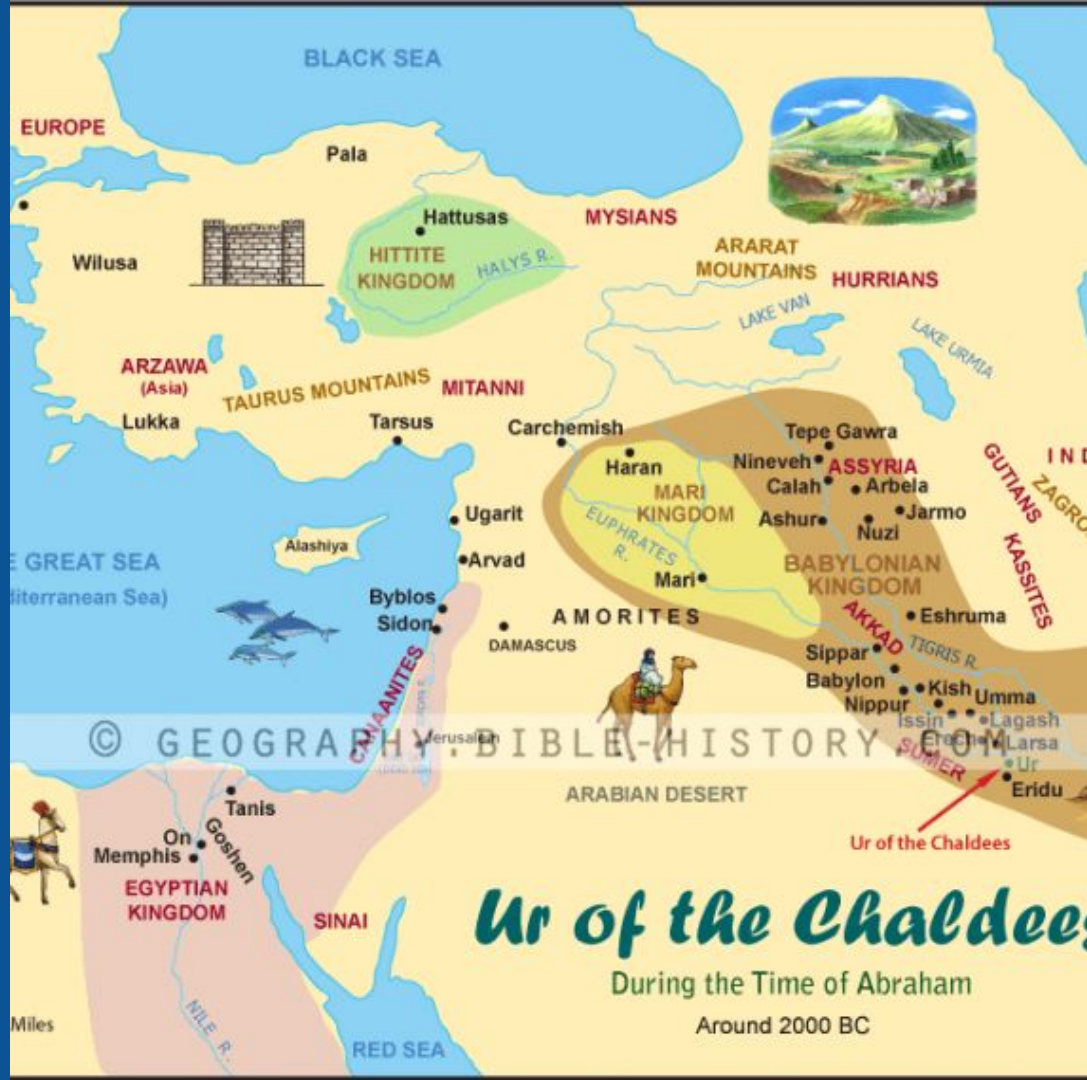


Ur

Girsu

Lagash





Numbers 33:50-56 New American Standard Bible 1995

Law of Possessing the Land

⁵⁰ Then YHWH spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan *opposite* Jericho, saying, ⁵¹ “Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘When you cross over the Jordan into the land of Canaan, ⁵² **then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their figured stones, and destroy all their molten images and demolish all their high places;**

⁵³ and you shall take possession of the land and live in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it. ⁵⁴ You shall inherit the land by lot according to your families; to the larger you shall give more inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give less inheritance. Wherever the lot falls to anyone, that shall be his. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers.

⁵⁵ But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall come about that those whom you let remain of them *will become as pricks in your eyes and as thorns in your sides*, and they will trouble you in the land in which you live. ⁵⁶ *And as I plan to do to them, so I will do to you.*”

Canaanite gods



Judges 2:1-3 NASB 1995

Israel Rebuked

2 Now the angel of YHWH came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, ‘I will never break My covenant with you, ² and as for you, **you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.**’ **But you have not obeyed Me;** what is this you have done?

³ Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they will become *as thorns* in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.’”

End of Lesson

