

UNCOVERING ANCIENT TALES

The Hittite Empire – City of Hattusha

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What happened to these people mentioned within scripture?

The beginning of “mention” for these peoples is in the time of Abraham, when he was a sojourner with his family after God encouraged the family in moving from the area of Ur in Sumer to Canaan as an invasion was imminent (and we now understand to have been the “Hill People” to the east of Ur).

The Hittites, Perizzites, the Rephaim, were present in the land the Hebrew people were residing within, the Hittites, however, the main power of the region.

For example, when Sarah dies, Abraham goes to the Hittites to request buying land (within their empire) in which to bury her and scripture indicates Abraham was respected “as a prince” and told to pick the choicest of tombs, whereupon Ephron the Hittite gives to Abraham a land a tomb.

SUMMARY: There are initially good relations with the Hittites within the land as respect for peaceful relations is modeled.

Below are references to the Hittites within scripture, courtesy of www.Biblegateway.com

1. Genesis 15:20

the **Hittites**, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

2. Genesis 23:3

He left the place where his wife's body was lying, went to the **Hittites**, and said,

3. Genesis 23:10

Ephron himself was sitting with the other **Hittites** at the meeting place at the city gate; he answered in the hearing of everyone there,

4. Genesis 23:12

But Abraham bowed before the **Hittites**

5. Genesis 23:18

It was recognized as Abraham's property by all the **Hittites** who were there at the meeting.

6. Genesis 23:20

So the field which had belonged to the **Hittites**, and the cave in it, became the property of Abraham for a burial ground.

7. Genesis 25:10

It was the field that Abraham had bought from the **Hittites**; both Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried there.

Later on, the Hebrew people are intermarrying with other groups of peoples including the Hittites, such as Isaac's son, Esau.

8. Genesis 26:34

Esau's Foreign Wives

When Esau was forty years old, he married two **Hittites**, Judith the daughter of Beeri, and Basemath the daughter of Elon.

9. Genesis 27:46

Isaac Sends Jacob to Laban

Rebecca said to Isaac, "I am sick and tired of Esau's foreign wives. If Jacob also marries one of these **Hittites**, I might as well die."

10. Genesis 49:32

The field and the cave in it were bought from the **Hittites**. Bury me there."

11. Exodus 3:8

and so I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians and to bring them out of Egypt to a spacious land, one which is rich and fertile and in which the Canaanites, the **Hittites**, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites now live.

12. Exodus 3:17

I have decided that I will bring them out of Egypt, where they are being treated cruelly, and will take them to a rich and fertile land—the land of the Canaanites, the **Hittites**, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

13. Exodus 13:5

The LORD solemnly promised your ancestors to give you the land of the Canaanites, the **Hittites**, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. When he brings you into that rich and fertile land, you must celebrate this festival in the first month of every year.

14. Exodus 23:23

My angel will go ahead of you and take you into the land of the Amorites, the **Hittites**, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I will destroy them.

15. Exodus 23:28

I will throw your enemies into panic; I will drive out the Hivites, the Canaanites, and the **Hittites** as you advance.

16. Exodus 33:2

I will send an angel to guide you, and I will drive out the Canaanites, the Amorites, the **Hittites**, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

17. Exodus 34:11

Obey the laws that I am giving you today. I will drive out the Amorites, the Canaanites, the **Hittites**, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, as you advance.

18. Numbers 13:29

Amalekites live in the southern part of the land; **Hittites**, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country; and Canaanites live by the Mediterranean Sea and along the Jordan River."

19. Deuteronomy 7:1

The Lord's Own People

"The LORD your God will bring you into the land that you are going to occupy, and he will drive many nations out of it. As you advance, he will drive out seven nations larger and more powerful than you: the **Hittites**, the Gergashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

20. Deuteronomy 20:17

Completely destroy all the people: the **Hittites**, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, as the LORD ordered you to do.

21. Joshua 3:10

As you advance, he will surely drive out the Canaanites, the **Hittites**, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Gergashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites. You will know that the living God is among you

22. Joshua 9:1

The Gibeonites Deceive Joshua

The victories of Israel became known to all the kings west of the Jordan—in the hills, in the foothills, and all along the coastal plain of the Mediterranean Sea as far north as Lebanon; these were the kings of the **Hittites**, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

23. Joshua 11:3

He also sent word to the Canaanites on both sides of the Jordan, to the Amorites, the **Hittites**, the Perizzites, and the Jebusites in the hill country, as well as to the Hivites who lived at the foot of Mount Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

24. Joshua 12:8

This portion included the hill country, the western foothills, the Jordan Valley and its foothills, the eastern slopes, and the dry country in the south. This land had been the home of the **Hittites**, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

25. Joshua 24:11

You crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The men of Jericho fought you, as did the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the **Hittites**, the Gergashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I gave you victory over them all.

The Hittite Empire as a “powerhouse” equal to Egypt falls in and about 1177 BCE with the fall of King Hattusili’s grandson; the writer, Eric H. Cline, indicates this point is the collapse of the old order of general civilization as outlined in his 2021 book, 1177 BC The Year Civilization Collapsed. The video we view for this segment alludes to internal strife as the result of the Hittite decline and aligns with the views of Cline.

The later discussions of Hittites in scripture are with the remnant groups who are dispersed amongst the Hebrews and others (Canaanites, etc.) living in the region, the Hittite groups not having “reign” over vast areas any longer.

26. Judges 1:26

[The man who helped the house of Judah get into the city of Bethel (formerly called Luz) later went to the land of the **Hittites**, built a city there, and named it Luz, which is still its name.

27. Judges 3:5

And so the people of Israel settled down among the Canaanites, the **Hittites**, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

28. 1 Kings 9:20-21

For his forced labor Solomon used the descendants of the people of Canaan whom the Israelites had not killed when they took possession of their land. These included Amorites, **Hittites**, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, whose descendants continue to be slaves down to the present time.

29. 2 Chronicles 8:7-8

Solomon employed at forced labor all the descendants of the people of Canaan whom the Israelites had not killed when they took possession of the land. These included **Hittites**, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, whose descendants continue to be slaves down to the present time.

30. Ezra 9:1

Ezra Learns of Intermarriages with Non-Jews

After all this had been done, some of the leaders of the people of Israel came and told me that the people, the priests, and the Levites had not kept themselves separate from the people in the neighboring countries of Ammon, Moab, and Egypt or from the Canaanites, **Hittites**, Perizzites, Jebusites, and Amorites. They were doing the same disgusting things which these people did.

31. Nehemiah 9:8

You found that he was faithful to you, and you made a covenant with him. You promised to give him the land of the Canaanites, the land of the **Hittites** and the Amorites, the land of the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Gergashites, to be a land where his descendants would live. You kept your promise, because you are faithful.