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The Conquest of Canaan

7: 1-26



Chapters 5 and 6 set out the fundamental requirements of the covenant of faith, stress the sovereignty of **YHVH**, and the need for absolute obedience. That being understood, some instructions about the attitude **Isra'el** should adopt towards **the people of Canaan** are given.²¹² **God's** choice of **Isra'el** as **His** special nation must always be central to **her** identity. As a result, **YHVH** demanded the extermination of **the seven nations** living in **the Land** promised to **Isra'el** (**to see link click [Ag - The Problem of Holy War in the TaNaKh](#)**), because **Isra'el's** identity needed to be guarded against corruption.

Look, she lives as a nation apart, said the prophet for hire Balaam about **Isra'el**, **and does not consider herself as being like other nations (Numbers 23:9b)**. From the call of **Abram** to the exodus from **Egypt**, **the people of Isra'el** were expected to be a separated **people**, not because **they** were better than any other nation, but because **they** were different. **They** were **God's chosen people**. **ADONAI** commanded **Abram** to leave Ur of the Chaldees and to go to **the Land** that **He** would show **him** (**Genesis 11:31-12:4**). But when **Abram** left that **Land** and went down to **Egypt** for help, **YHVH** had to chasten **him** (see the commentary on **Genesis [Dv - Now There Was a Famine in the Land, and Abram Went Down to Egypt to Live](#)**). Throughout **her** history, when **Isra'el** maintained a separated position by obeying **God's mitzvot** and seeking to please **Him**, **she** succeeded in all that **she** did. But when **she** began to compromise with the other nations and to worship

their gods, it led to failure and defeat.²¹³

The following outline lays out the chapter in chiastic fashion. **Isra'el's** covenantal relationship with **God (B)** provides the rationale for the demanded extermination of **the Canaanites (A)**.

A Warning Against Idolatry - 7:1-6 (Ca)

B God Has Chosen Isra'el - 7:7-11 (Cb)

B Because You are Listening - 7:12-15 (Cc)

A Show No Pity - 7:16-26 (Cd)²¹⁴

From **Chapter 7** through **Chapter 11** we find many commandments and warnings preparing **the Israelites** to enter **the Land** of promise. **Moshe** prepares **them** with some concepts that are hard to grasp, about **God**, about sin, about judgment and holiness.²¹⁵