

Journey Through The Cities Of Refuge

Lesson #26

Spiritual Warfare: HIVITES

July 22, 2026

When Israel entered the Promised Land [1300-1200 B.C.], it came with enemies,
7 cruel and wicked nations. Deut. 7:1-3 tells us:
These nations were greater and mightier than the Israelites.
They could not defeat the enemies on their own.
God would deliver the enemies over to the Israelites.
Israel was to conquer the enemies and utterly destroy them.
They were to make no covenant with them or show any mercy. Do not intermarry.
God made it clear: The enemies were so vile that unless destroyed,
they would corrupt Israel's devotion to Him [Deut. 7:12-16].
God warned Israel: If you do not destroy them, the land would "vomit" them out too.
Lev. 18:28; Numbers 33:56; Deut. 8:19-20
What God promised > happened [Judges 3:5-6, Ezra 9:1-2].

Hivites Appear in Scripture ~ 25x: 1st mention in Table of Nations in Genesis 10.
A curse was brought upon Canaan, the youngest of Ham's four children, and his line
due to Ham's unrighteous behavior toward Noah. [Gen. 9:22-27]
Gen. 10:15-18 Canaan begat Sidon his 1st born, and Heth, ¹⁶ And the Jebusite,
and the Amorite, and the Girgasite, ¹⁷ And the HIVITE, and the Arkite, and the Sinite,
¹⁸ And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite:
and afterward [?] were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad.

The Tower of Babel: Mankind uniting in rebellion against God. One world government.
Universal language. One world religion.

God's Intervention: Confused the language. Dispersed them to different areas of the earth.

Tower of Babel: Located in land of Shinar [Babylon] Gen. 11:1-4]

After the Tower of Babel, Canaan's descendants took most of the land

west of the Jordan River [along with Syria & Phoenicia], and the curse took effect.

They became 7 wicked nations who were given over to the most debased and degraded systems
of thought and worship. [Genesis 10:15-20].

All were idol worshippers with incestuous gods. Baal had sex with his mother Asherah, his
sister, and his daughter. They believed in incest, bestiality, adultery, child sacrifice, rape,
temple sex with prostitutes, orgies, and other sexual deviances.

Excavations of these temple sites ["high places" with stone pillars and altars]

revealed containers with sacrificed child remains offered to Molech [Jer. 32:35].

HIVITE: villagers or dwellers in tents/nomads

Spirit is characterized by: deception, compromise, assimilation to worldly culture, false peace

Have a village mindset: Limited perspective on life; living for worldly comfort rather than

God's will; Easily swayed by surrounding environment; superficial living;

Philosophy of Hivite Spirit: "Eat, drink and be merry - for tomorrow you may die."

Thomas Huxley "A man's worst difficulties begin when he is able to do just as he likes."

Hivite Spirit: Gratify the desires of the flesh first: Carnal appetites; flesh-driven behavior

The Hivite Spirit At Work

Gen. 34 1st Encounter with the Hivites Jacob's return to Canaan with his family

In Gen. 34 there is no mention of God, only evil & vengeance, & presence of Hivites
When Jacob left Uncle Laban, God told him to travel to Bethel. Jacob traveled over 500 miles and was only 50 miles from Bethel when he stopped at the prominent city of Shechem.

He bought land and settled in Shechem for 10 years. Take Heed: Hivites live in Shechem!!

Key: Delayed obedience is disobedience and outside God's will. It was an expensive detour!

- It was a land of wicked and sinful people who were idol worshippers.

Gen. 34 Dinah failed to keep a proper separation between herself &
the pagan people of the land.

Gen. 34:1-2 *And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob,
went out to see the daughters of the land.*

"What is wrong with a bit of fun? It does not hurt anyone."

Key: Beware! Satan knows what flavor of sin to bait his hook with.

The Danger of Curiosity: Dinah left the safety of her family to mingle with the local culture.

Putting yourself in worldly environments often leads to compromise and spiritual vulnerability.

- Dinah didn't accept God's judgment [assessment] about the world and its evils.
- She went into the world, by her own judgment, and socialized with a Hivite.

Gratify Our Desires Outside of God's Will

Principle: God desires His people to be holy and live separate from the world. [II Cor. 6:17]

Command: Do Not Mingle; Come Out; Be Separate

- It is foolish to think we can play in the mudpits of the world and not get dirty.
- It doesn't hurt me! What about your testimony to others?

Question: Why do we try so hard to fit in when we are called to be separate?

Dinah's seemingly harmless jaunt into the world controlled by the enemy territory
turned into a terrible nightmare.

Gen. 34:2 *And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her,
he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.*

- Defiled is used 3 times to describe Shechem's wicked deed. [5, 13, 27]
As a result of leaving the protection of God's authority, she lost her purity.

Gen. 34:3-4 His soul was strongly attracted to Dinah, the daughter of Jacob,
and he loved the young woman and spoke kindly to the young woman.

⁴So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, "Get me this young woman as a wife."
Get = 3947 *laqach*: Abduction and sin. The verb can expose violence when Dinah is "taken."
Wiersbe: The young prince claimed that he did it because he loved her and wanted her for his wife, but committing violent rape and keeping the girl confined in a house [v. 26] was a strange way to declare his love.

Gen. 34:26 And they killed Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword,
and took Dinah from Shechem's house and went out.

Gen. 34:7 And the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard *it*;
and the men were grieved and very angry, because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel
by lying with Jacob's daughter, a thing which ought not to be done.

Gen. 34:8-10 But Hamor spoke with them, saying, "The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter. Please give her to him as a wife. ⁹ And make marriages with us; give your daughters to us, and take our daughters to yourselves. ¹⁰ So you shall dwell with us, and the land shall be before you. Dwell and trade in it and acquire possessions for yourselves in it."

Gen. 34:11-12 Then Shechem said to her father and her brothers, "Let me find favor in your eyes, and whatever you say to me I will give. ¹² Ask me ever so much dowry and gift, and I will give according to what you say to me; but give me the young woman as a wife."

Gen. 34:13 But the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father, and
spoke deceitfully, because he had defiled Dinah their sister.

Gen. 34:15-17 But on this *condition* we will consent to you: If you will become as we *are*, if every male of you is circumcised, ¹⁶ then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters to us; and we will dwell with you, and we will become one people.

¹⁷ But if you will not heed us and be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and be gone."

Gen. 34:18 And their words pleased Hamor and Shechem, Hamor's son.

The Hivites in Shechem were known for avoiding warfare by defaulting to a
"peace at any cost" mentality.

Worldly Compromise and Assimilation: The Hivites of Shechem were willing to
intermarry and blend their religious and cultural practices with the Israelites.

This highlights a spirit that seeks to water down distinct moral and spiritual standards in order to comfortably assimilate with the culture of the world.

Wiersbe: The Hivites saw this policy as an opportunity to absorb Israel and gradually possess their wealth and their people, but Jacob's sons used it as a means to weaken the men and get them ready for slaughter.

Never suspecting the danger, the men of the city submitted to the surgery.

Deception and Retaliation: Jacob's sons insisted the men of the city be circumcised.

On the third day, while the men were incapacitated, Simeon and Levi attacked, killing all males, including Hamor and Shechem.

Note: Jacob's sons use this sacred and God-given sign for their own treacherous scheme.

Plundering the City: The brothers looted the city, taking flocks, wealth, and taking women and children, for which Jacob severely rebuked them.

The Incident with Dinah: Dinah was abducted and raped by Shechem, the son of the Canaanite leader, leading to a proposal of marriage.

He was proposing that Jacob's family thoroughly integrate itself with the Canaanites.

➤ Integration and compromise is spiritual danger.

Yoking & Spiritual Decisions: The concept of being "unequally yoked" highlights the importance of aligning oneself with God's purpose and the consequences of straying from it.

Have a village mindset: Limited perspective on life; living for worldly comfort rather than God's will; Easily swayed by surrounding environment; superficial living;
Luke 15:11-32 The Prodigal [wasteful] [under influence of Hivite spirit] left his father's house to gratify the flesh. The world calls that "life"- but it left the Prodigal in a pigpen.

You Can Bring Ruin to Your Life -Attitude > I've Got to See For Myself

Sometimes a man just wants to find out for himself, ignoring the advice of parents, friends and the Word of God.

God seeks to protect man from harm and give us wise counsel.

- Poison is still poison, whatever it says on the outside of the bottle.
- Believers do not need to visit a brothel to know that it is wrong.
- A man does not need to dabble in the New Age to know of its dangers.

Sin promises freedom, but it only brings slavery [John 8:34].

Sin promises success but brings failure.

The Prodigal came out from under the authority of his father when he went into the world.

When God is left out of our lives, enjoyment becomes enslavement.

The Hivite Spirit At Work

Joshua 11:3 the Hivite below Mt. Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

Lived in the land east of the Sea of Galilee

The Nations Remaining in the Land

Judges 3:1, 3, 4 Now these *are* the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, at least those who had not formerly known war implies the generation after that of Joshua.

Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath.

⁴And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord,

Rabbit Trail: Situated just north of Caesarea Philippi, Mt. Hermon [The Place We Worship Baal] ["sacred" or "abrupt"; forbidden place] rises 9,232 feet with 3 distinct summits visible from the southernmost part of the Sea of Galilee, 60 miles away.

The "mystery" of Mount Hermon revolves around its reputation in ancient apocryphal and Biblical texts as the epicenter of spiritual rebellion, demonic activity, and fallen angels. Straddling the borders of Syria and Lebanon, it was historically viewed as a dark, cosmological "mountain of the gods".

A. The Descent of the Watchers

According to this text, Mount Hermon, whose name translates to "an oath" or "ban," was the site where 200 "Watcher" angels [a class of heavenly beings] rebelled against God. They swore an oath on the mountain to descend to Earth and take human wives which ultimately produced a bloodline of giants known as the Nephilim. [Gen. 6:1-4]

Gen. 6:1-2, 4. Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ² that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they *were* beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose
⁴The Nephilim [fallen ones] were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them.

Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

- Nephilim = Hebrew root, naphal; fallen ones - These were not ordinary men.
- Offspring of a corrupted union between the supernatural and the human.
- The ancient world called them demigods. The Bible called them an abomination.

Note: Enoch agrees with Gen. 6:1-4: Book of Enoch gives the place as Mt. Hermon

The Bible lists over 30 verses about giants. Num. 21:21-35; Deut. 3:1-11:

Moses mentions Mount Hermon in relation to the conquest of Og, king of Bashan, and Sihon, king of Heshbon. These were both Rephaim. [Hebrew for "giants"]
Og's bed frame was said to be over 13 feet long.

➤ Their territory was on the east side of Mount Hermon as listed in Deut. 1:1-5.

B. The tribe of Dan contains multiple examples of the tendency of people to follow man-made religion over Biblical faith in God.

Following the Israelite invasion of Canaan in 1406 BC, the southern coastal plain was allocated to the tribe of Dan [Joshua 19:40-46]. However, due to the superior weaponry of the Philistines, who used iron chariots to defend their cities, the Danites were unable to conquer this territory.

Judges 18:1 In those days there was no king in Israel:

and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in;

for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.

- They ultimately sent 5 spies to find a better area. [easy to conquer]
- The spies learned of an area where a peaceful group of people lived.

Judges 18:27 And they took the things which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people that were quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword and burnt the city with fire.

- Seized the Canaanite city of Laish, renaming it Dan.
- Close to the sources of the Jordan River near Mt. Hermon.

In 931 BC, Jeroboam built an altar with a golden calf in Dan for the people of the northern kingdom to worship. Sadly, this man-made worship at Dan has been one of its lasting legacies

Extensive excavations found over 20 temples on her slopes. Biblical accounts in Judges 3:3 & I Chron. 5:23 state the mountain was considered sacred to the worshippers of the Canaanite god Baal. Mount Hermon, holiest of all, had other mystical attributes as well on her slopes. Eventually, worship of the baals was replaced with worship of Greek fertility gods.

C. The Gates Of Hades

At the base of Mt. Hermon lies Caesarea Philippi [modern-day Banias], which is widely known in ancient history as the location of the "Gates of Hades."

In the 3rd century BC, a prominent open-air shrine to the Greek god Pan was established at Panias located at the southwestern base of Mount Hermon.

The location was chosen for its dramatic natural features: a massive cave opening, Underground bubbling waters, and the headwaters of the Jordan River.

Historically, this sanctuary evolved into a sprawling complex:

- The Grotto: The focal point was a dark natural grotto believed by the ancients to be a gateway to the underworld, or Hades.
- Hellenistic Shrines: Carved niches were chiseled into the cliff face above the cave to hold statues of Pan, the nymphs, and Hermes.

Pan was the goat-legged god of shepherds and the wild.

In order to entice the return of their god, Pan, ancient people practiced debased rituals to appease the underworld deities.

Such rituals included prostitution and sexual interaction between humans and goats.

Roman Expansion: The site gained monumental architecture much later when

Herod the Great built a marble temple dedicated to Augustus in 19 BC.

His son, Philip the Tetrarch, further developed the city and named it Caesarea Philippi.

- Situated 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee and at the base of Mt. Hermon.
- Caesarea Philippi is the location of one of the largest springs feeding the Jordan River.

This abundant water supply has made the area very fertile and attractive for religious worship.

They believed their city was literally at the gates of the underworld: the gates of hell.

Jesus' Journey to Caesarea Philippi With His Disciples

- Jesus & His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee to Bethsaida > Healed man born blind
- Jesus & disciples walked about 25 miles to Caesarea Philippi [ruled by tetrarch Philip]
- This was not a Jewish populated area.

Marked a deliberate shift in Jesus' ministry: into a heavily pagan region to test their faith.

Jesus and His disciples had left the city where there was a lot of false teaching about Jesus.

As they came to this region, near Mount Hermon, they saw the temples with all the statues of gods. Temple Of Augustus Grotto Of god Pan Court of Pan & Nymphs

Temple of Zeus Temple of Pan & Dancing Goats Tomb Temple Of Sacred Goats

His disciples must have been shocked. Caesarea Philippi was like a red-light district in their world. It was considered the region's epicenter for worshipping pagan gods.

Devout Jews would have avoided any contact with the despicable acts committed there.

Matt. 16:13-18 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ¹⁴ And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

- In the midst of the Baal shrines at Caesarea Philippi, etched into the side of Mount Hermon to worship Pan, Peter proclaimed Jesus to be the Christ.
- This was no coincidence that his testimony was made amongst pagan worship.

¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona:

for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hades [realm of the dead] shall not prevail against it.

- Jesus' statement about the gates of Hades not prevailing against His church challenged the paganism of the Roman and Gentile world.
- In the ancient world, the judges and rulers would gather at the gates and make decisions.
- The plans and strategies of Hades cannot prevail against Jesus' church.

The rear of the large temple to Pan extended into the cave which had a large crevice within.

- This was a gateway to the underworld. Sacrifices were dropped down into the crevice. They waited for signs that the gods had accepted their sacrifice.

Jesus was challenging the paganism of the Roman & Gentile world. Jesus is not only challenging the old wineskin of Judaism, but He challenges the vast pagan world.

By choosing a city known for paganism, the Grotto of Pan, and imperial cult worship, Jesus confronts the most intimidating expressions of idolatry.

Courage in the Face of Idolatry: The disciples stepped into a center of pagan worship and affirmed their allegiance to the one true God. Their example calls believers to boldness in contexts where the prevailing culture might favor other gods or philosophies.

Rev. 1:18 *I am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.

And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Truth: Jesus Christ has authority over all spiritual powers and realms.

By His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ would conquer death so that death would not be able to hold any of His people.

Joshua warned the children of Israel that when they came into Canaan, they would see a lifestyle contrary to the Word of God.

Some of that lifestyle might look pleasant, but it will trap you and bring death.

Hivites, a powerful demonic force, are the ultimate evil wicked masters of Lies & Deception.

The Hivite spirit seeks to DECEIVE mankind with the belief:

- The world is the "fountain of life."
- Life is lived out in the confines of the systems of the world and in conflict with God.
- Presents this world, using our fleshly feelings and thoughts, as life-giving and soul-satisfying. Ruination and damnation are the ultimate goals.

Goal: Lure us by using illusions, delusions and sensual pleasures that place the mind and imaginations into a snare.

- This snare will deceive you with great boasts promising you pleasure and prosperity at the expense of your life and your soul. Result: No focus on things of eternal value
- This spirit will bombard your mind and soul with alternate life-styles that falsely promise meaning and purpose in life outside of God's chosen ways.
- Gratify the Flesh; Spirit of Gluttony: Fill our soul with the wrong "food."
- If it feels good, do it. "Swinging lifestyle" Don't worry what other people think!
- Hedonism = worldly lifestyles - vision limited to an earthly life

Acts 17:18 Paul was addressing the Epicureans whose philosophy of life was:

Live for pleasure in this life only and give no thought about life after death.

Luke 17:26-30 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: ²⁷ They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. ²⁸ Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; ²⁹ but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

I John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer The first call that every Christian experiences is the call to abandon the attachments of this world.