

Deuteronomy 12

Verses 1 – 7

“These are the statutes and the judgments which you shall carefully follow in the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess as long as you live on the earth. ² You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you are going to dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains, on the hills, and under every leafy tree. ³ And you shall tear down their altars and smash their memorial stones to pieces, and burn their Asherim in the fire, and cut to pieces the carved images of their gods; and you shall eliminate their name from that place. ⁴ You shall not act this way toward the Lord your God. ⁵ But you shall seek *the Lord* at the place which the Lord your God will choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and you shall come there. ⁶ You shall bring there your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution of your hand, your vowed offerings, your voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. ⁷ There you and your households shall eat before the Lord your God, and rejoice in all your undertakings in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

“These are the statutes and the judgments which you shall carefully follow in the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess as long as you live on the earth.

How many times has Moses used the word careful or carefully in the Book of Deuteronomy in chapters 1 thru 11? 14 times so far (depending on which version you may be using) and he will use it another 21 times by the end of this book.

² You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you are going to dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains, on the hills, and under every leafy tree. ³ And you shall tear down their altars and smash their memorial stones to pieces, and burn their Asherim in the fire, and cut to pieces the carved images of their gods; and you shall eliminate their name from that place.

Moses repeats some themes over and over again in Deut. This was just covered in chapter 7 verse 5. Getting rid of the many false gods in Canaan was of paramount importance because God wanted Israel to get started on the right footing.

⁵ But you shall seek *the Lord* at the place which the Lord your God will choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and you shall come there.

God's dwelling place was at the Tabernacle. During their time in the wilderness the Tabernacle was moved from one location to another as they were led by the cloud. However, after they crossed the Jordan and took over Canaan and the land was distributed and settled the Tabernacle remained at Shiloh for over 300 years.

See Chart 1205

Where the Tabernacle was located while Israel was in the wilderness

Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
Num. 33	42 locations	1445	1406	39

Where the Tabernacle was located after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?

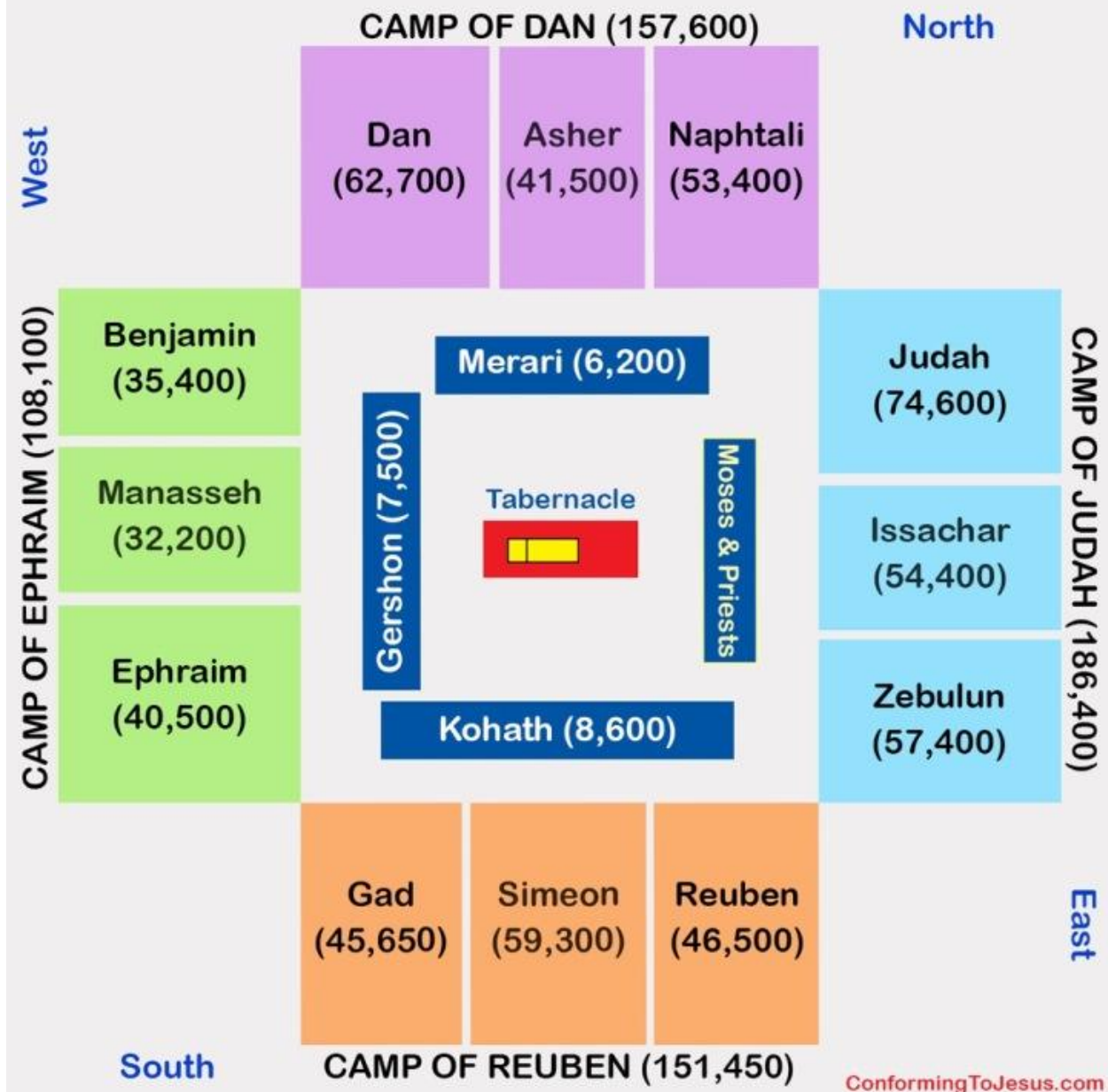
Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
Joshua 5:10	Gilgal	1406	1396	10
Joshua 18:1	Shiloh	1396	1070	326
Jeremiah 7:14	Shiloh destroyed	1070		
	Not sure	1070	1020	50
I Sam 21	Nob	1020	1010	10
I Chron. 16:39-40	Gibeon	1010	960	50
I Kings 8:3-4	Temple	960		

When Israel was in the wilderness all of Israel surrounded the Tabernacle and were probably within 5 miles of it. This may sound like a long distance but not when one considers that the community had a population of 2.5 million people.

See Pic 1210

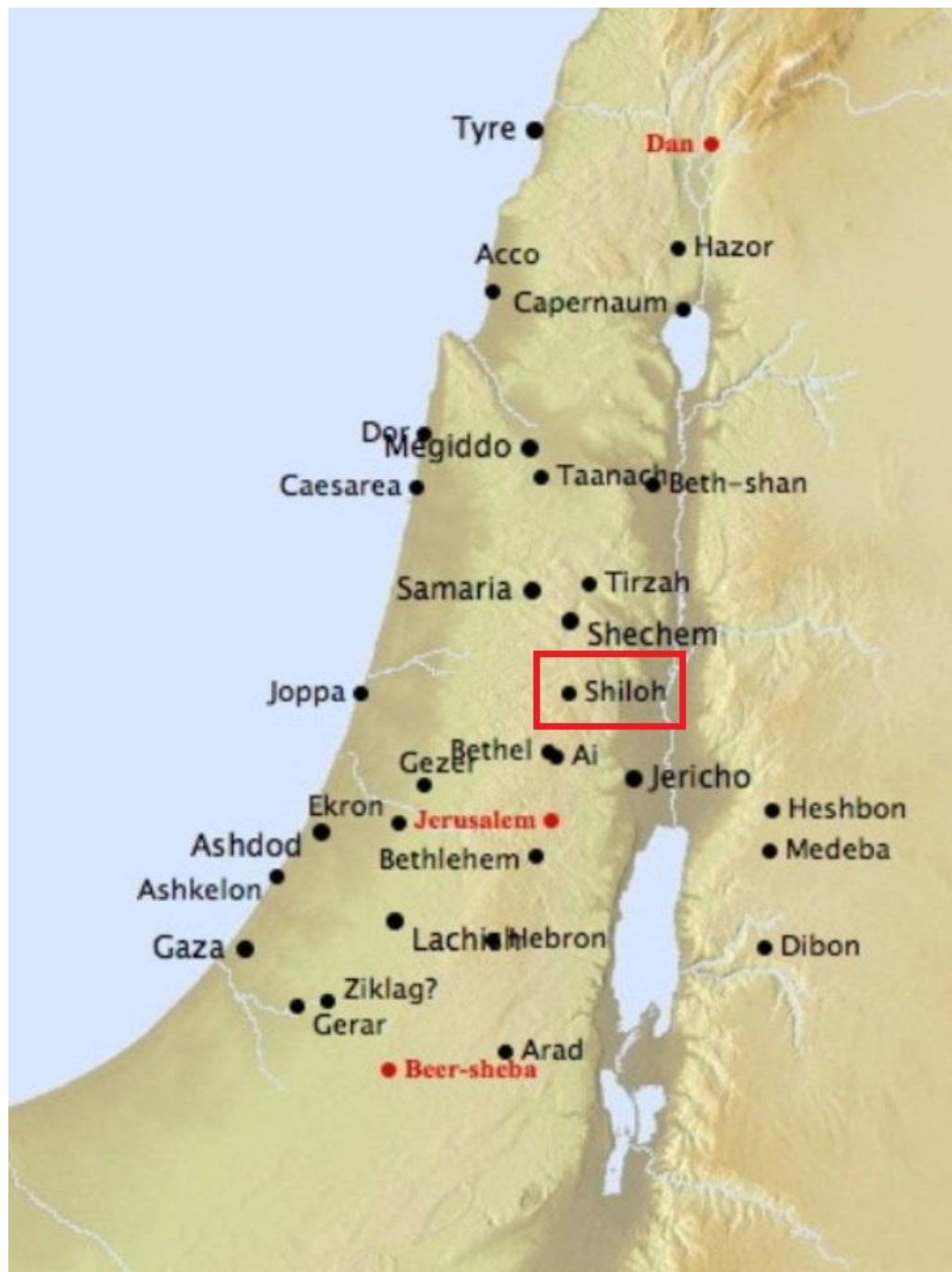
ENCAMPMENT OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 2:1 - 3:39



After they settled in Canaan the people had to travel a much longer distance, depending on where they lived, to get to the Tabernacle.

See pic 1215



⁶ You shall bring there your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution of your hand, your vowed offerings, your voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. ⁷ There you and your households shall eat before the Lord your God, and rejoice in all your undertakings in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

Three of Israel's week long festivals celebrated the beginning and the end of the harvest seasons. God demanded that all males attend these festive occasions but in most cases all of the family attended. This was when people gave their tithes and offerings.

See pic 1217

Jewish Feasts						
Feast	Scripture	Date Observed	Roman Calendar	Sabbath	Offerings	Commemorates
Passover	Lev. 23:05	Nisan 14 At twilight	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Oldest son saved from death
Festival of Unleavened Bread	Lev. 23:6-8	Nisan 15-21	March/April	Day 1 & 7 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 28:16-24	The hasty flight from Egypt
Offering the First Fruits	Lev. 23:9-14	After the Sabbath	March/April	No	Numbers 28:16-24	Beginning of the barley harvest
Feast Of Weeks (Pentecost)	Lev. 23:15-22	50 days after F.F.	May/June	Special Sabbath	Numbers 28:26-31	beginning of the wheat harvest.
Festival of Trumpets	Lev. 23:23-25	Tishri 1	September	Special Sabbath	Numbers 29:1-6	Civil New Year
Day of Atonement	Lev. 23:26-32	Tishri 10	Sept/Oct	Sabbath	Numbers 29:7-11	Forgiveness of sin for the nation
Tabernacles Temp. Shelters	Lev. 23:33-34	Tishri 15-22	Sept/Oct	Day 1 & 8 Spec Sabbath	Numbers 29:12-38	Wilderness End of harvest

The Passover, The feast of Unleavened Bread and the Offering of first fruits took place during an 8 day feast and these 3 events were one of the 3 feasts that the Jewish males were commanded to attend. The Jews referred to this as the week of Passover.

Verses 8 – 14

⁸ “You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, everyone *doing* whatever is right in his *own* eyes; ⁹ for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you. ¹⁰ When you cross the Jordan and live in the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and He gives you rest from all your enemies around *you* so that you live in security, ¹¹ then it shall come about that the place in which the Lord your God will choose for His name to dwell, there you shall bring everything that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution of your hand, and all your choice vowed offerings which you will vow to the Lord. ¹² And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons and daughters, your male and female slaves, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion or inheritance with you. ¹³ “Be careful that you do not offer your burnt offerings in any *cultic* place that you see, ¹⁴ but *only* in the place which the Lord chooses in one of your tribes: there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do everything that I command you.

⁸ “You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, everyone *doing* whatever is right in his *own* eyes; ⁹ for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you.

During their time in the wilderness there had not been a rigid adherence to some of the requirements of the law because many statutes and regulations applied to their occupation of the Promised Land. For example, the festivals, tithing, and even the observance of circumcision had not been followed for 40 years.

See Joshua 5:5

⁵ For all the people who came out were circumcised, but *all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised.*

These requirements were not required in the wilderness because their income was very limited and their circumstances did not permit circumcision. Once they had taken over the Promised Land and settled on their property they were now very wealthy because of the spoils of war and because they were living in a very productive land. At this point they were expected to begin going to the Tabernacle to celebrate the feasts, give their tithe and offerings and follow all of the rules laid down at Sinai.

¹¹ then it shall come about that the place in which the Lord your God will choose for His name to dwell, there you shall bring everything that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution of your hand, and all your choice vowed offerings which you will vow to the Lord.

The Tabernacle was at Gilgal during the time it took to capture & settle Canaan. Then the Tabernacle was moved to Shiloh where it remained for 326 years.

See Chart 1220

Where the Tabernacle was located while Israel was in the wilderness

Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
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Where the Tabernacle was located after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?

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I Kings 8:3-4	Temple	960		

¹³ “Be careful that you do not offer your burnt offerings in any cultic place that you see, ¹⁴ but *only* in the place which the Lord chooses in one of your tribes: there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do everything that I command you.

The high places used by the Canaanites for their sacrifices were strictly forbidden. The Tabernacle was the only acceptable place to offer sacrifices.

Verses 15 - 16

¹⁵ “**However, you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your gates, whatever you desire, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you; the unclean and the clean *alike* may eat it, as the gazelle and the deer.** ¹⁶ Only you shall not eat the blood; you are to pour it out on the ground like water.

This was a big change in the Law.

See chart 1225 **Change #1 in the law**

Changes in the law

Lev. 17:3 - 5 Anyone from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox, a lamb, or a goat in the camp, or slaughters it outside the camp, and has not brought it to the doorway of the tent of meeting to present it as an offering to the Lord in front of the tabernacle of the Lord, bloodshed is to be counted against that person. He has shed blood, and that person shall be cut off from among his people

Deut. 12:15 - 16 “However, you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your gates, whatever you desire, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you; the unclean and the clean alike may eat it, as the gazelle and the deer. Only you shall not eat the blood; you are to pour it out on the ground like water.

The Israelites were allowed to eat meat from the herd and flock without taking them to the Tabernacle as long as three conditions were met.

1. They were not “dedicated to the Lord for sacrifice”.
2. The blood must not be eaten but poured out on the ground.
3. If the Tabernacle was too far away (See verse 21).

Verses 17 - 19

¹⁷ You are not allowed to eat within your gates the tithe of your grain, new wine, or oil, or the firstborn of your herd or flock, or any of your vowed offerings which you vow, or your voluntary offerings, or the contribution of your hand. ¹⁸ But you shall eat them before the Lord your God in the place which the Lord your God will choose, you and your son and daughter, and your male and female slaves, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God in all your undertakings. ¹⁹ Be careful that you do not abandon the Levite as long as you live in your land.

¹⁷ You are not allowed to eat within your gates the tithe of your grain, new wine, or oil, or the firstborn of your herd or flock, or any of your vowed offerings which you vow, or your voluntary offerings, or the contribution of your hand

Anything that belonged to God had to be taken to the Tabernacle which guaranteed that the Levites were not neglected.

Verses 20 – 28

²⁰ “When the Lord your God extends your border as He has promised you, and you say, ‘I will eat meat,’ because you desire to eat meat, *then* you may eat meat, whatever you desire. ²¹ If the place where the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter *animals* from your herd and flock which the Lord has given you, as I have commanded you; and you may eat within your gates whatever you desire. ²² Just as a gazelle or a deer is eaten, so you may eat it; the unclean and the clean alike may eat it. ²³ Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh. ²⁴ You shall not eat it; you shall pour it out on the ground like water. ²⁵ You shall not eat it, so that it may go well for you and your sons after you, since you will be doing what is right in the sight of the Lord. ²⁶ Only your holy things which you may have and your vowed offerings, you shall take and go to the place which the Lord chooses. ²⁷ And you shall offer your burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, on the altar of the Lord your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the Lord your God, and you shall eat the flesh. ²⁸ “Be careful and listen to all these words which I am commanding you, so that it may go well for you and your sons after you forever, for you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the Lord your God.

These verses are a repeat of the two previous sections except for verse 21 which explains **why this change in the law was enacted.**

²¹ **If the place where the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter animals from your herd and flock which the Lord has given you, as I have commanded you; and you may eat within your gates whatever you desire.**

In the wilderness, when the law in Leviticus was given, everyone was relatively close to the Tabernacle; within a few miles. But in Canaan, many in Israel would be a good distance away from Shiloh.

Distance north and south	up to 70 miles away	4 day journey
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Distance east and west	up to 30 miles away	2 day journey
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The law in Leviticus worked well when the Israelites camped around the tabernacle in the wilderness but once they were settled in the Promised Land that law needed to be amended because many of the people would be living a long distance away from the Tabernacle.

Verses 29 – 32

²⁹ **“When the Lord your God cuts off from you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and live in their land, ³⁰ be careful that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from your presence, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?’ ³¹ You shall not behave this way toward the Lord your God, because every abominable act which the Lord hates, they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire for their gods. ³² “Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take *anything* away from it.**

³⁰ **be careful that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from your presence, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?’**

This is a repeat of the warning given in the first four verses of this chapter. If the people understood the meaning of the 1st and 2nd commandments and they were willing to obey them then this warning would not have been necessary.

³¹ You shall not behave this way toward the Lord your God, because every abominable act which the Lord hates, they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire for their gods.

Here is the reason God removed the Canaanites. It was due to their evil conduct which included sacrificing their sons and daughters. This kind of behavior can only come about in one way.

See Romans 1:28 - 29

²⁸ And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a depraved mind, to do those things that are not proper, ²⁹ people having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice;