

~HITTITES (709)

(Hit'tites) [Of, or belonging to, Heth]

- **Under Noah's Curse**
- **Destruction Decreed**
- **Later History**
- **Figurative Use**
- **Secular Attempts At Identification**
- **Three Groups Identified**

- **A people descended from Heth, the second-named son of Canaan.**
- **And Canaan became father to Sidon his firstborn and **Heth**.
(Genesis 10:15)**
- **They were therefore of Hamitic origin.**
- **And the sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan. (Genesis 10:6)**
- **Abraham had some dealings with the **Hittites**, who were residing in Canaan at the time of his moving there. Yehowah had promised to give to Abraham's seed the land of Canaan, which was inhabited by a number of nations, including the **Hittite** nation.**
- **On that day Yehowah concluded with Abram a covenant, saying; To your seed I will give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates. (Genesis 15:18)**
- **The Kenites and the Kenizzites and the Kadmonites. (Genesis 15:19)**
- **And the **Hittites** and the Perizzites and the Rephaim. (Genesis 15:20)**
- **And the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Girgashites and the Jebusites. (Genesis 15:21)**
- **However, Yehowah told Abraham that, the error of the Amorites, a term often used generally for the nations in Canaan, has not yet come to completion.**
- **But in the fourth generation they will return here, because the**

error of the Amorites has not yet come to completion. (**Genesis 15:16**)

- Therefore Abraham respected the **Hittite** ownership of the land, and when his wife Sarah died, he bargained with Ephron the son of Zoar the **Hittite** for a cave in which to bury her.
- And Sarah's life got to be a hundred and twenty-seven years long. They were the years of Sarah's life. (**Genesis 23:1**)
- So Sarah died in Kiriatharba, that is to say; Hebron, in the land of Canaan, and Abraham came in to bewail Sarah and to weep over her. (**Genesis 23:2**)
- Then Abraham got up from before his dead and proceeded to speak to the sons of Heth, saying; (**Genesis 23:3**)
- An alien resident and settler I am among you. Give me the possession of a burial place among you that I may bury my dead out of my sight. (**Genesis 23:4**)
- At this the sons of Heth answered Abraham, saying to him. (**Genesis 23:5**)
- Hear us, my lord. A chieftain of God you are in the midst of us. In the choicest of our burial places bury your dead. None of us will hold back his burial place from you to prevent burying your dead. (**Genesis 23:6**)
- Thereupon Abraham got up and bowed down to the natives, to the sons of **Heth**. (**Genesis 23:7**)
- And spoke with them, saying; If your souls agree to bury my dead out of my sight, listen to me and urge Ephron the son of Zohar for me. (**Genesis 23:8**)
- That he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which is his, which is at the extremity of his field. For the full amount of silver let him give it to me in the midst of you for the possession of a burial place. (**Genesis 23:9**)
- As it was, Ephron was sitting among the sons of **Heth**. So Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the sons of Heth with all those entering the gate of his city, saying; (**Genesis**

23:10)

- **No, my lord! Listen to me. The field I do give to you, and the cave that is in it to you I do give it. Before the eyes of the sons of my people I do give it to you. Bury your dead. ([Genesis 23:11](#))**
- **At that Abraham bowed down before the natives. ([Genesis 23:12](#))**
- **And spoke to Ephron in the hearing of the natives, saying; Only if you, no, listen to me! I will give you the amount of silver for the field. Take it from me, that I may bury my dead there. ([Genesis 23:13](#))**
- **Then Ephron answered Abraham, saying to him: ([Genesis 23:14](#))**
- **My lord, listen to me. A land plot worth four hundred silver shekels, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead. ([Genesis 23:15](#))**
- **Accordingly Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out to Ephron the amount of silver that he had spoken in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred silver shekels current with the merchants. ([Genesis 23:16](#))**
- **Thus the field of Ephron that was in Machpelah, which is in front of Mamre, the field and the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, which were within all its boundaries round about, became confirmed. ([Genesis 23:17](#))**
- **To Abraham as his purchased property before the eyes of the sons of Heth among all those entering the gate of his city. ([Genesis 23:18](#))**
- **And after that Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah in front of Mamre, that is to say; Hebron, in the land of Canaan. ([Genesis 23:19](#))**
- **Thus the field and the cave that was in it became confirmed to Abraham for the possession of a burial place at the hands of the sons of Heth. ([Genesis 23:20](#))**

- In Joshua's day the **Hittites** are described as inhabiting the land that covered an area, from the wilderness and this Lebanon to the great river, the river Euphrates, that is, all the land of the **Hittites**.
- From the wilderness and this Lebanon to the great river, the river Euphrates, that is, all the land of the **Hittites**, and to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun your territory will prove to be. (**Joshua 1:4**)
- Apparently they lived mainly in the mountainous regions, which would include Lebanon and, possibly, areas in Syria.
- The Amalekites are dwelling in the land of the Negeb, and the **Hittites** and the Jebusites and the Amorites are dwelling in the mountainous region, and the Canaanites are dwelling by the sea and by the side of the Jordan. (**Numbers 13:29**)
- The Canaanites to the east and the west, and the Amorites and the **Hittites** and the Perizzites and the Jebusites in the mountainous region and the Hivites at the base of Hermon in the land of Mizpah. (**Joshua 11:3**)

.. Under Noah's Curse

- The descent of the **Hittites** from Canaan brought them under the curse placed by Noah upon Canaan, and when Israel subjugated them it was in fulfillment of Noah's words at;
- At this he said; Cursed be Canaan. Let him become the lowest slave to his brothers. (**Genesis 9:25**)
- And he added; Blessed be Yehowah, Shem's God, and let Canaan become a slave to him. (**Genesis 9:26**)
- Let God grant ample space to Japheth, and let him reside in the tents of Shem. Let Canaan become a slave to him also. (**Genesis 9:27**)
- The religion of the **Hittites** was pagan, undoubtedly being phallic, as were the other Canaanite religions. When Abraham's grandson Esau married **Hittite** women, this was a source of bitterness of spirit to Isaac and Rebekah, Esau's father and mother.
- And Esau grew to be forty years old. Then he took as wife Judith

the daughter of Beeri the Hittite and also Basemath the daughter of Elon the **Hittite**. (**Genesis 26:34**)

- And they were a source of bitterness of spirit to Isaac and Rebekah. (**Genesis 26:35**)
- After that Rebekah kept saying to Isaac; I have come to abhor this life of mine because of the daughters of **Heth**. If Jacob ever takes a wife from the daughters of Heth like these from the daughters of the land, of what good is life to me? (**Genesis 27:46**)
- God described the land that the **Hittites** and other associated nations occupied as, a land flowing with milk and honey.
- And I am proceeding to go down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a land good and spacious, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the locality of the Canaanites and the **Hittites** and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. (**Exodus 3:8**)
- But these nations had become so corrupt that their presence on the land defiled it.
- Consequently the land is unclean, and I shall bring punishment for its error upon it, and the land will vomit its inhabitants out. (**Leviticus 18:25**)
- For all these detestable things the men of the land who were before you have done, so that the land is unclean. (**Leviticus 18:27**)
- Many are the warnings that God gave Israel as to the danger of association with them in their degraded, filthy practices. He lists many immoralities, forbidding the Israelites to engage in them, and then says;
- And Yehowah continued to speak to Moses, saying; (**Leviticus 18:1**)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them; I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 18:2**)
- The way the land of Egypt does, in which you dwelt, you must

not do, and the way the land of Canaan does, into which I am bringing you, you must not do, and in their statutes you must not walk. (**Leviticus 18:3**)

- My judicial decisions you should carry out, and my statutes you should keep so as to walk in them. I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 18:4**)
- And you must keep my statutes and my judicial decisions, which if a man will do, he must also live by means of them. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 18:5**)
- You people must not come near, any man of you, to any close fleshly relative of his to lay bare nakedness. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 18:6**)
- The nakedness of your father and the nakedness of your mother you must not lay bare. She is your mother. You must not lay bare her nakedness. (**Leviticus 18:7**)
- The nakedness of your father's wife you must not lay bare. It is your fathers nakedness. (**Leviticus 18:8**)
- As for the nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father or the daughter of your mother, whether born in the same household or born outside it, you must not lay bare their nakedness. (**Leviticus 18:9**)
- As for the nakedness of the daughter of your son or the daughter of your daughter, you must not lay bare their nakedness, because they are your nakedness. (**Leviticus 18:10**)
- As for the nakedness of the daughter of your father's wife, the offspring of your father, she being your sister, you must not lay bare her nakedness. (**Leviticus 18:11**)
- The nakedness of your father's sister you must not lay bare. She is the blood relation of your father. (**Leviticus 18:12**)
- The nakedness of your mother's sister you must not lay bare, because she is a blood relation of your mother. (**Leviticus 18:13**)
- The nakedness of your father's brother you must not lay bare. You must not come near his wife. She is your aunt. (**Leviticus**

18:14)

- The nakedness of your daughter-in-law you must not lay bare. She is your son's wife. You must not lay her nakedness bare. (**Leviticus 18:15**)
- The nakedness of your brother's wife you must not lay bare. It is your brothers nakedness. (**Leviticus 18:16**)
- The nakedness of a woman and her daughter you must not lay bare. The daughter of her son and the daughter of her daughter you must not take in order to lay her nakedness bare. They are cases of blood relationship. It is loose conduct. (**Leviticus 18:17**)
- And you must not take a woman in addition to her sister as a rival to uncover her nakedness, that is, besides her during her lifetime. (**Leviticus 18:18**)
- And you must not come near a woman during the menstruation of her impurity to lay her nakedness bare. (**Leviticus 18:19**)
- And you must not give your emission as semen to the wife of your associate to become unclean by it. (**Leviticus 18:20**)
- And you must not allow the devoting of any of your offspring to Molech. You must not profane the name of your God that way. I am Yehowah. (**Leviticus 18:21**)
- And you must not lie down with a male the same as you lie down with a woman. It is a detestable thing. (**Leviticus 18:22**)
- And you must not give your emission to any beast to become unclean by it, and a woman should not stand before a beast to have connection with it. It is a violation of what is natural. (**Leviticus 18:23**)
- Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, because by all these things the nations whom I am sending out from before you have made themselves unclean. (**Leviticus 18:24**)
- Consequently the land is unclean, and I shall bring punishment for its error upon it, and the land will vomit its inhabitants out. (**Leviticus 18:25**)

- And you yourselves must keep my statutes and my judicial decisions, and you must not do any of all these detestable things, whether a native or an alien resident who is residing as an alien in your midst. (**Leviticus 18:26**)
- For all these detestable things the men of the land who were before you have done, so that the land is unclean. (**Leviticus 18:27**)
- Then the land will not vomit you out for your defiling it the same way as it will certainly vomit the nations out who were before you. (**Leviticus 18:28**)
- In case anyone does any of all these detestable things, then the souls doing them must be cut off from among their people. (**Leviticus 18:29**)
- And you must keep your obligation to me not to carry on any of the detestable customs that have been carried on before you, that you may not make yourselves unclean by them. I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 18:30**)

.. Destruction Decreed

- The **Hittites** were one of the seven nations named as due to be devoted to destruction. These nations were described as more populous and mighty than Israel.
- So the seven nations at that time must have numbered more than three million persons, and the Hittites in their mountain stronghold would be a formidable foe.
- When Yehowah your God at last brings you into the land to which you are going so as to take possession of it, he must also clear away populous nations from before you, the **Hittites** and the Girgashites and the Amorites and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations more populous and mighty than you are. (**Deuteronomy 7:1**)
- And Yehowah your God will certainly abandon them to you, and you must defeat them. You should without fail devote them to destruction. You must conclude no covenant with them nor show them any favor. (**Deuteronomy 7:2**)

- They manifested their enmity by assembling with the other nations of Canaan to fight Israel, led by Joshua, when they got news of Israel's crossing the Jordan and destroying the cities of Jericho and Ai.
- And it came about that as soon as all the kings who were on the side of the Jordan in the mountainous region and in the Shephelah and along the whole coast of the Great Sea and in front of Lebanon, the **Hittites** and the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, heard of it. (**Joshua 9:1**)
- They began to assemble themselves all together to make war against Joshua and Israel unanimously. (**Joshua 9:2**)
- Then you went crossing the Jordan and came to Jericho. And the landowners of Jericho, the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites and the **Hittites** and the Girgashites, the Hivites and the Jebusites began fighting against you, but I gave them into your hand. (**Joshua 24:11**)
- The cities of the **Hittites** therefore should have been destroyed and their inhabitants wiped out so that they would not be a danger to Israel's loyalty to God and cause Israel to incur God's disfavor.
- It is only of the cities of these peoples that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance that you must not preserve any breathing thing alive. (**Deuteronomy 20:16**)
- Because you should without fail devote them to destruction, the **Hittites** and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, just as Yehowah your God has commanded you. (**Deuteronomy 20:17**)
- In order, that they may not teach you to do according to all their detestable things, which they have done to their gods, and you may indeed sin against Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 20:18**)
- But Israel carried out God's command imperfectly. After Joshua passed off the scene they disobediently failed to clear out these nations, which remained as a thorn in the side and a constant harassment to them.
- If, though, you will not drive the inhabitants of the land away from before you, then those whom you leave of them will

certainly become as pricks in your eyes and as thorns in your sides, and they will indeed harass you on the land in which you will be dwelling. (**Numbers 33:55**)

- And it must occur that just as I had figured doing to them I shall do to you. (**Numbers 33:56**)

· Later History

- Because Israel did not obey God by destroying the Canaanite nations completely, God declared;
- So I, in turn, have said; I shall not drive them away from before you, and they must become snares to you, and their gods will serve as a lure to you. (**Judges 2:3**)
- It appears that those Canaanites remaining among Israel were tolerated and, in some rare instances, were even given positions of respect and responsibility. Also, it seems that, of the Canaanite nations, only the **Hittites** maintained prominence and strength as a nation.
- And a chariot customarily came up and was exported from Egypt for six hundred silver pieces, and a horse for a hundred and fifty, and that was the way it was for all the kings of the **Hittites** and the kings of Syria. It was by means of them that they did the exporting. (**1 Kings 10:29**)
- And Yehowah himself had caused the camp of the Syrians to hear the sound of war chariots, the sound of horses, the sound of a great military force, so that they said to one another; Look! The king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the **Hittites** and the kings of Egypt to come against us! (**2 Kings 7:6**)
- Two **Hittites** were soldiers, possibly officers, in David's army, namely, Ahimelech and Uriah. Uriah was a man zealous for the victory of Israel over its enemies, and one who observed the Law.
- David had relations with Bath-sheba, the wife of Uriah, and subsequently had Uriah put into a dangerous position in battle, where he was killed. For this, David was punished by God.
- Then David answered and said to Ahimelech the Hittite and Abishai the son of Zeruiah, the brother of Joab; Who will go

down with me to Saul into the camp? To this Abishai said; I myself shall go down with you. (1 Samuel 26:6)

- Then David sent and inquired about the woman and someone said; Is this not Bath-sheba the daughter of Eliam the wife of Uriah the Hittite? (2 Samuel 11:3)
- After that David sent messengers that he might take her. So she came in to him and he lay down with her, while she was sanctifying herself from her uncleanness. Later she returned to her house. (2 Samuel 11:4)
- At this Uriah said to David; The Ark and Israel and Judah are dwelling in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping on the face of the field, and I, shall I go into my own house to eat and drink and to lie down with my wife? As you are living and as your soul is living, I shall not do this thing! (2 Samuel 11:11)
- So he wrote in the letter, saying; Put Uriah in front of the heaviest battle charges, and you men must retreat from behind him, and he must be struck down and die. (2 Samuel 11:15)
- And it came about that while Joab was keeping guard over the city he kept Uriah put in the place where he knew that there were valiant men. (2 Samuel 11:16)
- When the men of the city came on out and went fighting against Joab, then some of the people, the servants of David, fell and Uriah the Hittite also died. (2 Samuel 11:17)
- Why did you despise the word of Yehowah by doing what is bad in his eyes? Uriah the Hittite you struck down with the sword, and his wife you took as your wife, and him you killed by the sword of the sons of Ammon. (2 Samuel 12:9)
- And now a sword will not depart from your own house to time indefinite, as a consequence of the fact that you despised me so that you took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to become your wife. (2 Samuel 12:10)
- This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am raising up against you calamity out of your own house, and I will take your wives under your own eyes and give them to your fellowman, and he will

- certainly lie down with your wives under the eyes of this sun. (**2 Samuel 12:11**)
- Whereas you yourself acted in secret, I, for my part, shall do this thing in front of all Israel and in front of the sun. (**2 Samuel 12:12**)
 - King Solomon levied men from among the **Hittites** for slavish forced labor.
 - As for all the people that were left over of the **Hittites** and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, who were no part of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 8:7**)
 - From their sons that had been left behind them in the land, whom the sons of Israel had not exterminated, Solomon kept levying men for forced labor until this day. (**2 Chronicles 8:8**)
 - However, his foreign wives, among whom were **Hittite** women, caused Solomon to turn away from Yehowah his God.
 - And King Solomon himself loved many foreign wives along with the daughter of Pharaoh, Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian and **Hittite** women. (**1 Kings 11:1**)
 - From the nations of whom Yehowah had said to the sons of Israel; You must not go in among them, and they themselves should not come in among you, truly they will incline your heart to follow their gods. It was to them that Solomon clung to love them. (**1 Kings 11:2**)
 - And he came to have seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives gradually inclined his heart. (**1 Kings 11:3**)
 - And it came about in the time of Solomon's growing old that his wives themselves had inclined his heart to follow other gods, and his heart did not prove to be complete with Yehowah his God like the heart of David his father. (**1 Kings 11:4**)
 - And Solomon began going after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the disgusting thing of the Ammonites. (**1 Kings 11:5**)

- And Solomon began to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, and he did not follow Yehowah fully like David his father. (**1 Kings 11:6**)
- The **Hittites** are mentioned in the Bible as having kings and warring ability as late as the reign of King Jehoram of Israel circa **917-905 B.C.E.**
- And Yehowah himself had caused the camp of the Syrians to hear the sound of war chariots, the sound of horses, the sound of a great military force, so that they said to one another; Look! The king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the **Hittites** and the kings of Egypt to come against us! (**2 Kings 7:6**)
- However, the Syrian, Assyrian, and Babylonian conquests of the land apparently shattered the **Hittites** as a power.
- After the restoration of Israel from exile in **537 B.C.E.**, the people of Israel and even some of the priests and Levites married women of the Canaanite nations and gave their daughters to Canaanite men, among these being **Hittites**.
- This was in violation of God's law. For this, Ezra reproved them, moving them to an agreement to put away their foreign wives.
- And as soon as these things were finished, the princes approached me, saying; The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands as regards their detestable things, namely, the Canaanites, the **Hittites**, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians and the Amorites. (**Ezra 9:1**)
- For they have accepted some of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, and they, the holy seed, have become mingled with the peoples of the lands, and the hand of the princes and the deputy rulers has proved to be foremost in this unfaithfulness. (**Ezra 9:2**)
- So, please, let our princes act representatively for all the congregation, and, as for all in our cities who have given a dwelling to foreign wives, let them come at the times appointed and along with them the older men of each individual city and its judges, until we have turned back the burning anger of our God

from us, on account of this matter. (**Ezra 10:14**)

- And the former exiles proceeded to do that way, and Ezra the priest and the men that were the heads of the fathers for their paternal house, even all of them by their names, now separated themselves and began sitting on the first day of the tenth month to inquire into the matter. (**Ezra 10:16**)
- And gradually they finished with all the men that had given a dwelling to foreign wives by the first day of the first month. (**Ezra 10:17**)
- And some of the sons of the priests came to be found that had given a dwelling to foreign wives, of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jehozadak and his brothers, Maaseiah and Eliezer and Jarib and Gedaliah. (**Ezra 10:18**)
- But they promised by shaking hands to put their wives away, and that, they being guilty, there should be a ram of the flock for their guiltiness. (**Ezra 10:19**)
- These all had accepted foreign wives, and they proceeded to send away wives along with sons. (**Ezra 10:44**)

.. Figurative Use

- Yehowah, speaking through the prophet Ezekiel, used the term **Hittite** in a figurative sense in speaking to Jerusalem. He said,
- And you must say; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said to Jerusalem; Your origin and your birth were from the land of the Canaanite. Your father was the Amorite, and your mother was a **Hittite**. (**Ezekiel 16:3**)
- Jerusalem, the capital of the nation, upon which Yehowah placed his name was, when Israel entered the land, a city occupied by the Jebusites.
- But since the most prominent tribes were the Amorites and the **Hittites**, these are apparently used as representative of the nations of Canaan, including the Jebusites. Therefore the city had a lowly heritage, but Yehowah had caused it to be beautified. Through King David, sitting on Yehowah's throne.

- And Solomon began to sit upon Yehowah's throne as king in place of David his father and to make a success of it, and all the Israelites were obedient to him. (**1 Chronicles 29:23**)
- With the ark of the covenant on Mount Zion, and finally, the glorious temple built by David's son Solomon, the fame of Jerusalem came to be spread about among the nations. But Jerusalem became like the Canaanite nations around her, corrupt and immoral, for which Yehowah finally brought desolation upon her.
- And for you a name began to go forth among the nations because of your prettiness, for it was perfect because of my splendor that I placed upon you, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 16:14**)
- But you began to trust in your prettiness and become a prostitute on account of your name and to pour out your acts of prostitution on every passerby. His it came to be. (**Ezekiel 16:15**)

•• Secular Attempts At Identification

- Historians and archaeologists have tried to identify the **Hittites** of the Bible in secular history. Their primary basis for making identifications has been linguistic, the comparison of words apparently having similar sound or spelling.
- In the Assyrian cuneiform texts, frequent reference is made to Hatti in a context that usually places it in Syria or Palestine. These may be references to the Biblical **Hittites**. However, on the basis of this term **Hatti**, scholars try to identify the Bible **Hittites** with the so-called **Hittite** Empire that had its capital in Asia Minor, far to the North and West of the land of Canaan. This they try to do in the following manner, but in doing so they refer to three different groups of people.

•• Three Groups Identified

- In Anatolia, a part of what is now called Turkey, in Asia Minor, many ancient texts have been unearthed at Bogazköy, formerly called Hattushash. It was the capital of a land that modern scholars have called Hatti and whose inhabitants spoke Hattic.
- These early people were evidently overrun by conquerors who brought in a different language, which, according to scholars, was an

Indo-European language. This language used cuneiform script and is called cuneiform **Hittite**.

- Later a yet different Indo-European language using hieroglyphic script superseded the cuneiform script, and this language is referred to as hieroglyphic **Hittite**. Some examples of texts in this language are said to have been found in both Asia Minor and northern Syria. Scholars say that these three languages represent three groups.

- But there is no proof that any of these were the **Hittites** of the Bible. Concerning so-called cuneiform **Hittite**, Martin Noth stated: The term Hittite is not found in the ancient texts, but was invented by modern students, resting on the historical connection between this language and the kingdom of Hatti in Asia Minor.

- He goes on to say regarding the **Hittite** hieroglyphs: The conventional term Hittite is irrelevant and confusing when applied to them. [The Old Testament World, 1966, p. 231]

- Another historian, East. A. Speiser, concludes; The problem of the Hittites in the Bible is complex. To begin with, there is the question as to which type of **Hittites** may be involved in any given Biblical passage. Hattians, Indo-European **Hittites** of the cuneiform records, or hieroglyphic **Hittites**. [The World History of the Jewish People, 1964, Vol. 1, p. 160]

- From the foregoing it can be seen that any supposed identification of the **Hittites** of the Bible with the **Hittite** Empire that had as its capital city Hattushash is merely conjecture and has not been proved.

- Because of this uncertainty, references in this publication to the secular **Hittites** are generally set in quotation marks to remind the reader that such identification is not proved and that we do not feel the evidence is strong enough to view such identification as conclusive.