

~HORITE (155)

(Hor'ite)

.. Hurrians

- A people inhabiting the mountains of Seir in patriarchal times. They are called in the Bible the sons of Seir the **Horite**.
- These are the sons of Seir the **Horite**, the inhabitants of the land: Lotan and Shobal and Zibeon and Anah. (**Genesis 36:20**)
- And Dishon and Ezer and Dishan. These are the sheiks of the **Horite**, the sons of Seir, in the land of Edom. (**Genesis 36:21**)
- These are the sheiks of the **Horite**, Sheik Lotan, Sheik Shobal, Sheik Zibeon, Sheik Anah. (**Genesis 36:29**)
- Sheik Dishon, Sheik Ezer, Sheik Dishan. These are the sheiks of the **Horite** according to their sheiks in the land of Seir. (**Genesis 36:30**)
- The Edomites proceeded to dispossess them and to annihilate them from before them and to dwell in their place.
- And the **Horites** dwelt in Seir in former times, and the sons of Esau proceeded to dispossess them and to annihilate them from before them and to dwell in their place, just the same as Israel must do to the land that is his holding, which Yehowah will certainly give to them. (**Deuteronomy 2:12**)
- Just the same as he did for the sons of Esau, who are dwelling in Seir, when he annihilated the **Horites** from before them, that they might dispossess them and dwell in their place until this day. (**Deuteronomy 2:22**)
- Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan, Adah the daughter of Elon the Hittite and Oholibamah the daughter of Anah, the granddaughter of Zibeon the Hivite. (**Genesis 36:2**)
- In the **Masoretic** text, the grandfather of one of Esau's wives is called Zibeon the Hivite.
- These are the sons of Seir the **Horite**, the inhabitants of the land;

Lotan and Shobal and Zibeon and Anah. (**Genesis 36:20**)

- And these are the sons of Zibeon, Aiah and Anah. This is the Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness while he was tending the asses for Zibeon his father. (**Genesis 36:24**)
- However, he is shown to be a descendant of Seir the **Horite**. **Horite** may mean merely **cave dweller**, from, **Hebrew** *chor*, **hole**. This would make Zibeon a **Hivite** who was a **cave dweller**.
- At this the men of Israel said to the **Hivites**; Perhaps it is in our vicinity that you are dwelling. So how could we conclude a covenant with you? (**Joshua 9:7**)
- The **Greek Septuagint** calls the Gibeonites **Chorrean**, **Horites**, instead of **Hivites**, but this apparently is an error, in view of the fact that the Gibeonites belonged to one of the seven Canaanite nations devoted to destruction, the Horites did not. The **Masoretic** text has **Hivites**.
- Joshua now called them and spoke to them, saying; Why did you trick us, saying; We are very far away from you, whereas you are dwelling in our very midst? (**Joshua 9:22**)
- And now you are cursed people, and a slaves position and being gatherers of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God will never be cut off from you. (**Joshua 9:23**)
- Then they answered Joshua and said; It was because your servants were plainly told that Yehowah your God had commanded Moses his servant to give you all the land and to annihilate all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and we became very much afraid for our souls because of you. So we did this thing. (**Joshua 9:24**)
- And now here we are, in your hand. Just as it is good and right in your eyes to do to us, do. (**Joshua 9:25**)
- And he proceeded to do so to them and to deliver them from the hand of the sons of Israel, and they did not kill them. (**Joshua 9:26**)
- Accordingly Joshua constituted them on that day gatherers of wood and drawers of water for the assembly and for Yehowah's

altar, down to this day, at the place that he should choose.
(Joshua 9:27)

- 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)

.. Hurrians

- Many modern scholars now believe that the **Horites** are actually a people whom they call **Hurrians**. This conclusion is based primarily on linguistic similarities, particularly similarities in proper names in ancient tablets that were discovered in recent times over a wide area reaching from modern Turkey into Syria and Palestine.
- So they hold that the **Hurrians** came to be called **Horites**. But note E. A. Speiser's comments in *The World History of the Jewish People* [1964, Vol. 1, p. 159]. He first advances this argument:
- **Biblical Jebusites, too, proved to be Hurrians in disguise. They were of foreign stock;**
- But his master said to him; Let us not turn aside to a city of foreigners who are no part of the sons of Israel, and we have to pass on as far as Gibeah. (Judges 19:12)
- A description borne out by the Jebusite personal name *Awarnah*.
- And the angel kept his hand thrust out toward Jerusalem to bring it to ruin, and Yehowah began to feel regret over the calamity, and so he said to the angel that was bringing ruin among the people: It is enough! Now let your hand drop. And Yehowah's angel himself happened to be close by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. (2 Samuel 24:16)

- A 14th century ruler of Jerusalem, or Jebus, bore a name containing the attested Hurrian element *Hepa*. Thus Jebusites and Hivites alike two of the featured pre-Israelite nations were merely subdivisions of the wide-spread Hurrian group. But then he adds:
- The above conclusion, however, must now be modified in one significant respect. The required change detracts nothing from the position of the local Hurrians in early Biblical times, but it does affect the automatic identification of Hurrians with Horites. There is no archaeological evidence whatever for a Hurrian settlement in Edom or Transjordan. It follows, therefore, that the Biblical term **Hori** much in the same manner as Cush must have been used at one time in two distinct and unrelated meanings.
- Therefore, though the scholars wish to use a name not found in the Bible to apply to a widespread people who, they say, include the **Horites**, **Hivites**, and **Jebusites**, they admit that, for example, there is no evidence of **Hurrian** population in Edom, where Biblical **Horites** lived. The Bible, then, in calling the pre-Edomite inhabitants of Seir **Horites** evidently restricts the name to that group in Seir.