

“And They Drive Not Out The Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer: but the Canaanites dwell among the Ephraimites unto this day, and serve under tribute.” Joshua 16:10 KJV

Israel disobeyed God. God Told Israel, *“Thou shalt drive them out before thee...make no covenant with them, nor with their gods. They shall not dwell in thy land, lest they make thee sin against me.”* The Canaanites were reprobate, with no intention of seeking God though He Was Plainly Exhibited in the night sky and the Creation surrounding them. *“For the Wrath of God Is Revealed From Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the Truth in unrighteousness; That Which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God Hath Shewed It unto them. The Invisible Things of Him...are clearly seen, being understood by the things that Are Made, Even His Eternal Power And Godhead; so that they are without excuse: When they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened...they became fools, and changed the Glory of the Uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.”* God used Israel to bring His Judgment upon Canaan. *“I Do Visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants.”* God sent little incentives to hasten their departure. *“I Will Send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.”* Israel still had to do battle and it wasn't a bed of roses, but their downfall started when they made a covenant with the enemy. Many times believers disobey God's explicit Word and flail about in the consequences of their sin wondering why God isn't helping. A friend wrote this in an email recently: *“You can choose your choices, but you cannot choose the consequences of your choices.”* After we make choices, their consequences make us! Choosing to obey Truth, brings *“good success.”* Leave God out...Well, *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Be not deceived: God Is Not Mocked! Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap!”* Jesus said, *“He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.”* Whatever Truth you disobey will be sand in your eyes and thorns in your shoe. We think Satan is our enemy, and he is, but our own desires are what he uses to bring us down. *“Every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then, when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”* YOU are your own worst enemy! Faith and obedience to God's Word is your only escape! The Apostle Paul exclaimed, *“O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”* Christ, the *“Word Made Flesh”* is our Only Escape!



The little sins we let remain,
Will bring us sorrow, grief, and pain,
If we desire a path of gain,
We must never Truth disdain. –CGP

We find this statement several times in Israel's account: *“Could not drive them out.”* They lacked ability, because they lacked obedience; a powerful lesson for any who would seek to know God's Power of Deliverance. We must *“study to shew [ourselves] approved unto God...[to] have good success.”* Think right – Do right! *“If we walk in The Light, As He Is In The Light, we have Fellowship one with another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son Cleanseth us from all sin.”* Choices either take us closer to God or farther from God. Direction determines consequence!

“Draw nigh to God, and He Will Draw Nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” James 4:8 KJV