

Discerning the Hittite spirit of fear and terror



When we look at the Old Testament we find many principles that have their working out in the practices of the New Testament. One such instance is the commandment of the Lord to “cast out” the seven nations as described in Deuteronomy 7:1.

When the Lord your God shall bring you into the land to which you are going, to possess it, and He casts out many 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 larger and mightier than you...

These seven nations had to be “cast out” (*naw-shal*). This comes from a primitive Hebrew word meaning to *pluck off, divest, eject, or drop, cast out, drive, loose, put off* (H5394). Note that it is the Lord who delivers them into the hand of Israel, and it is they who then do the conquering.

...and when the Lord your God delivers them over to you, and you strike them, then you shall utterly destroy them...

Deut 7:2

Israel was required to eject these forces from the region before they could truly possess their Promised Land. While these were in fact historical people-groups, they now stand for types of spiritual powers that still have a hold in people’s minds and hearts today. Therefore the reality of an Old Testament event becomes a principle for us to contend with today.

When we can get a handle on how these spirits work in an individual or group, we can begin the process of resisting their stranglehold on us, and then conquer them. The following articles look at how these spiritual forces operate, and how to deal with them. The information that follows isn’t so much about “how to cast out a demon” but more along the lines of providing insight into the methodology of these powers. Having gained some insight into their behavioural patterns we can then discern much more easily why, and in whom, these forces operate.

First we’ll look at the leading spiritual force as described in Deuteronomy chapter 7, the Hittite-spirit. It’s my hope that we can more readily identify the presence of such forces within the Body of Christ – because sadly, that’s where they often lurk. As you read this teaching you’ll probably stop now and then and say to yourself “Why, that’s how so-and-so in our congregation acts!” And if you’ve been on the receiving end of some false accusation from one of the brethren, then you may well find their heart attitude described in these pages.

However, please be on guard as you read - this information isn't meant to arm you with your own set of accusations to level at brethren who've hurt you; rather it's simply to offer some insight into how satan's attacks work. Remember, "**we do not battle against flesh and blood but against**".... well, I'm sure you know the rest! If not, see Ephesians 6:12.



Who were these seven people-groups found in Deuteronomy 7:1? The following is a short historical overview of these nations, but it's the table on page 8 that will provide the most insight.

1. **The Hittites** — This people were descendants of Heth, the second son of Canaan (Gen 10:15), and occupied the mountainous region around Hebron, in the south of Israel.
2. **The Gergashites** — Supposed by some to be the same as the Gergesenes (Matt 8:28), who dwelt east of Lake Gennesareth. Others take them for a branch of the larger tribe of the Hivites, as they are omitted in nine out of ten places where the tribes of Canaan are mentioned; in the tenth they are mentioned, while the Hivites are not.
3. **The Amorites** — Descended from the fourth son of Canaan. Besides their conquest on the Moabite territory they occupied extensive mountainous settlements west of the Dead Sea.
4. **The Canaanites** — Located in Phoenicia, particularly about Tyre and Sidon, and came from the oldest branch of the family of Canaan, bearing his name.
5. **The Perizzites** — That is, *villagers*, a tribe who were dispersed throughout the country and lived in unwalled towns.
6. **The Hivites** — They dwelt about Ebal and Gerizim, extending towards Hermon. They are supposed to be the same as the Avims.
7. **The Jebusites** — These resided around Jerusalem and the adjacent countryside.

In studying these people-groups we'll also be looking at the kings of these nations, because the biblical principle is that "**kings represent the gods they serve**" (.1 Kgs. 11:2ff / Jer. 11:13 / Jer. 30:9 / Isa 24:21 / Hos 3:5). We find this principle scattered throughout the Old Testament, which is based on the New Testament truth that "Jesus is the King."

During Old Testament times gods became national symbols as the kings who represented them fought for political recognition and dominance. So it is that we find

the names of Near Eastern kings often contained a national god's name. This is also found amongst the kings of Israel and Judah, who often bore names containing a shortened form of the Hebrew name of Jehovah: Jeroboam, Jehoram, Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jeroboam, Jehoiachin, Jothan, Josiah, etc.

The pagan gods were believed to be limited to certain geographical localities, and their power outside these designated areas was immobilized. We find one such reference to this belief in 1 Kings 20:23 where the advisers to the Syrian king counsel him to fight Israel on the plains because its "gods are gods of the hills". It is from this that we get the concept of territorial spirits. The revelation of the Hebrew God as the One All-Powerful God reigning over all things was a major concept that completely separated Jehovah/Yahweh from all other gods in scope.

The above-discussed principles are vital to understand, as they underpin our argument that ancient national groups headed by a monarchy represent the gods they are dedicated to. This also applies to the naming of certain cities after the name and characteristic of a local or national deity. In fact the dominant god was honoured by naming a city after it.

Even today we still find certain countries named after demons; some examples are:

- **EUROPE:** The European land mass is actually named after (and dedicated to?) the ancient Phoenician/Greek goddess **Europa**.
- **ASSYRIA:** This ancient nation (which is today's Syria) was named after a warlike god called **Ashur**, which may partial account for its constant war-like tendencies.
- **HAWAII:** The island of Hawaii is named after **Haumea**, the old earth-mother fertility goddess.
- **IRELAND:** This name comes from an early Celtic word *Iweriu* meaning "the fertile place" or more probably, "Place of Eire". Eire is another spelling of **Eriu**, who was a Celtic fertility goddess.
- **THE ISLE OF MAN:** This island off the coast of England derives its name from **Mannan mac Lir**, the Gaelic equivalent of the Greek sea-god Poseidon and analogous to the Roman god Neptune.
- **MONACO:** The name of the tiny country of Monaco most probably means "Himself alone" which is a reference to the Greek demigod **Hercules**, who was once worshipped at a shrine in this locality.
- **VATICAN CITY:** Even the Papal city has a name originally derived from demonic sources. "Vatican" comes from the Latin word *vaticinari*, which means "to prophesy". This is a reference to the hill *Mons Vaticanus* of which the city forms a part. Pre-Christian sooth-sayers and fortune-tellers used the streets in this area to practice divination in ancient times.
- **EL SALVADOR:** Interestingly this South American country's name comes from the Spanish, meaning "**The Saviour**" and is a reference to Jesus Christ!

Let's now see how the various names of these seven nations actually represent the spirits that have become associated with them. Note that there may well be more than one spirit operating in a person or group at a time. They will often form clusters or "nests" because that increases their power-base. This is not unknown in deliverance ministry where you may find a number of evil spirits operating together, usually under the control of a major demonic spirit who calls the shots.

Nation / spirit	Meaning of that name	Characteristics of that spirit
Hittites	Terror; son/s of terror. (Strong's H2850)	Fears of all kinds; mind issues like torment, phobias, terror, depression and deceit.
Girgashites	Dweller on clay soil. (Strong's H1622)	Focuses on earthly issues rather than the heavenly; earth-bound; unbelief in the spiritual; doubt.
Amorites	Mountain people; sayers. (Strong's H567)	One who "says", meaning one who seeks publicity for self-glory; focuses on temporal fame and personal issues; proud; domineering; enjoys to be prominent.
Canaanites	Peddler; trafficker; zealous. (Strong's H3669)	Over-zealous in almost everything, hence the source of addictions and perversions; a people-pleaser to the extreme.
Perizzites	Belonging to a village; dwellers in the countryside. (Strong's H6522)	"Rustic-minded", that is, limited ambition, limited vision, and often has low self-esteem.
Hivites	Villagers; smallness. (Strong's H2340)	Satisfied with village (i.e. small) life; limited vision; enjoyment of an earthly life, hence a satisfaction with small worldly pleasures; shyness.
Jebusites	Thresher place; threshers. (Strong's H2983)	Those who tread down others, hence controllers, manipulators, especially over other believers; mis-use of spiritual authority; legalism and power playing.

It has been suggested by some Bible commentators that these seven are the evil counterparts of the “Seven Spirits” of God as recorded in Revelation 3:1, Revelation 5:6 and Zechariah 4:10. If this is so, then the corresponding contrary spirits are the seven we are looking at here. And as it’s true that the Holy Spirit leads and guides God’s leadership, then it can also be true that the seven counterfeit spirits will also attempt to do this amongst God’s leaders. It’s therefore highly likely that such spirits will attempt to infiltrate and effect every leader. These so-called “spirits” are attitudes and leadership styles, which are neither God-honouring nor approved by Him.

So let’s begin to see something from the background of these seven spiritual types. Their names are particularly revealing, so we will unpack them and take to heart the inner truths that reveal “these spirits that hinder” our spiritual maturity.



The Hittite Spirit

The Hittites were descendants of Heth (Gen. 10:15); they dwelt in Hebron, in the south of the land of Canaan. Their name means "terror" (from H2865; *terror*, *Cheth*, a Canaanite – Heth; see chart on page 4). The root meaning of the word gives us the clue we need in order to designate this spirit’s character. In these days in particular the word "terrorist" is thrown around quite freely. But let’s consider what the word conjures up for us: a manifestation of fear; a (literal) fear of an unknown happening; a secrecy planned and carried out with the aim to create panic and confusion amongst the unsuspecting.

Thus terror is related to the unknown, and it has to do with the “unseen”. The very fact that acts of terrorism, whether contemporary or ancient, happen out of the blue upon “innocent” people with no seeming rational reasoning, in itself creates fear in the mind. This of course is one of the desired effects of terrorism – to create an atmosphere of fear that can actually be felt. As this spreads it becomes infectious and has repercussions well beyond the boundaries that the actual act itself has caused. Whilst the terrorist bomb causes physical pain, the “fear” of further terrorism causes pain in the mind. Terrorism is not just about the initial suffering it brings, but also about the lingering fear and confusion it leaves in its wake. The spirit of terror wants to savour its work and salivate over its ongoing power over unsuspecting people.

Our minds prefer it when all is right with the world; when law and order keep a check on life; when we can count on something; when we know we can “trust” things to work for our well-being. But when fear comes along and plagues our minds, rationality goes out of the window, and panic stalks us. Fear comes close. With it

comes the confusion, the questions, the irrational reactions, the anger, and the turning-in of our minds. We seek shelter, answers, protection, and often flee from the rational. This is the fertile soil that the Hittite spirit loves.

The terror that comes is meant to cause us to react *against*, instead of responding *to* a situation. The fear of terror is an emotional reaction rather than a mental assessment. For example, I have a fear of large spiders, particular those very large brown hairy ones so common in the northwest of Australia. Small spiders don't worry me too much, although I'm careful about those very poisonous ones.

I recall on one occasion some years back when gardening, I was trimming the large leaves off a palm tree in the front yard. As I picked it up, one of those dreaded large spiders ran up my arm. In a split second that seemed to last much longer, I remember saying to myself, "Oh there's a spider on my arm – I must've disturbed its home in the palm tree and it's ran up my arm to seek escape from its home being cut up".

For a brief moment I looked at this creature, thought those above thoughts, as calm as anything. Then I distinctly recall the moment that my brain clicked in. "Yes, it's one of those spiders, and yes it's definitely on your arm – and by the way, you're really fearful of those things!"

The next second my rational thought processes went out the window, and emotion took over. I yelled, shook my arm, my heart raced, I jumped back, yelled again and ran shivering with fear. It took another ten minutes before I plucked up enough courage to grab a rake and crazily go bashing the ground around the base of the palm tree in an attempt to squash the poor creature. Irrational fear took over and my emotions went berserk.

So we can say that terror is more emotive than mentally rational; it's based more on what our emotions "feel" than on what our mind can "see". Since this episode I've begun dealing with this irrational thought process realising that it stems from some sort of in-bred fear that has little rational support.

What I discovered was a so-called "entry point" for this irrational behaviour. I vividly remember my mother killing a similar spider in my younger years. I was probably 3 or 4 at the time, sitting on the floor next to a telephone table, while my Mum was on the phone. I recall her seeing a large hairy spider on the wall high up above the telephone table. She grabbed a broom and began to hit it; and all the time I was sitting on the floor watching this. I feel that it was at that point (in particular) that I was "educated" to fear such large spiders, and to deal with them immediately. Since then that "lesson" has always been associated with some sort of fear – after all, if my Mum was scared of these spiders then I had better be scared too, because they're probably pretty bad things!

The Hittite-spirit is one that targets the emotions, particularly where a fear of some sort might have taken advantage, like the incident just related. It's probably the spiritual force that operates most strongly in connection with phobias, nightmares, irrational worries, etc. Because it relies on craftiness, secrecy and stealth in order to maximise its attack, it's for that very reason hard to detect except by revelation of the

Holy Spirit. Being a spirit of terror it brings with it a sense of dread, despair and torment, factors that play heavily on the mind of the victim. It can therefore be a spirit associated with suicide.

Our self-life fears being hurt, and because of this we erect barriers in our minds to protect ourselves from anyone or anything that would inflict inward pain. Some such barriers are; procrastination over decision-making; a form of shyness that attempts to deal with hurtful relationships; feigned “coldness” that hopes to protect from aggression of various kinds; or a refusal to confront issues and deal with them. All of these attitudes are un-Godly and need to be exorcised from the mind.

Interestingly enough we find emotional and mental attacks often directed against those who have a prophetic calling in Christ. On the outside the prophetic person may seem to have it together, but often those in the prophetic will relate how they're often under mental attack by the enemy - and while of course this can be the case with any believer, it seems to be a common factor in the lives of those with a prophetic edge.

The Hittite-spirit prefers to hide itself, often disguising itself as “friend” rather than “foe”; this of course fits the *modus operandi* of many a terrorist. An interesting Biblical account similar to this can be found in 2 Chronicles 18: 28-29.

**And the king of Israel went up, and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, to Ramoth-gilead.
And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and go into battle; and you put on your robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself. And they went into battle.**

When we read the full account of this in chapter 18 we discover the following.

- Ahab (king of Israel) and Jehoshaphat (king of Judah) go into battle against the revelation of the Lord (vs. 16), but the Lord knowing their hearts gives them what they have already decided to do.
- The Lord sends forth a lying spirit (vs. 20-21).
- In a vain attempt to deflect the outcome as revealed through the prophet Micaiah (vs. 16), Ahab chooses to disguise himself.
- He even uses Jehoshaphat as bait by asking him to wear his royal robes into the battle while he (Ahab) presumably dons a simple soldier's attire.
- Against all odds (because the Lord is sovereign even in this battle) Jehoshaphat escapes death (vs. 32) while Ahab, even though disguised, cannot escape the Lord's hand.
- The end of the matter proceeds when a lone Syrian archer fires a random shot which “just happens to kill Ahab”!

Through Ahab we see the Hittite-spirit at work in his heart. All the tentacles are there; pride, hiddenness, secrecy, disguising oneself, etc. The Hittite-spirit might well plan in the dark but it will eventually come under the scrutinising light of God, and He will deal with it.

It's ironic that Ahab, who wanted to be hidden in battle, ends his life propped up in a chariot some distance from the battlefield (vss. 33-34). Even desiring to be "hidden" he cannot help but show himself by being propped up in his chariot. We might expect him to crawl away and die somewhere out of sight in a cave or something. But no, his proud spirit still wants to doggedly stand up, even if it's propped up!

The Hittite-spirit might well resist the prophetic word of God and try to shut it up (vs. 26), but God will have His day against such terrorising and deceitful spirits. Those who ally themselves to this spirit might win the day now and then, but "in the evening" (vs. 34) they shall pass away and be found displaced.

The Lord often works against His adversaries by coming "in the opposite spirit". Hence, when dealing with the Hittite-spirit He will deal with it by Prophetic Truth since both of these characteristics (Prophecy and Truth) are the very opposite to False Speech and Deceit.

This should be a warning to anyone who practices these things – God's word and God's truth will find you out. So those who use the methods of secrecy, who practice deceit, who would shut up the prophetic, and who misuse others for their own gain, are knowingly or unknowingly, siding with the Hittite-spirit. Only by God's wonderful grace can they find their liberty.

The Hittite-spirit can usually be found at work in those who practice the following:

- Gossip and slander
- Those who abuse others by use of words and speech
- Inordinate desire to keep secrets
- Those who terrorise others in whatever form it may take
- Rumour-mongers who delight to instil fear and distress in others
- Leaders who quench the Holy Spirit's voice
- Those who dampen any encouragement found among the brethren
- Undue criticism bent on controlling others

It can be found in those who suffer from:

- Phobias of all kinds
- Fear and mental torments
- Those of a melancholic nature
- Ongoing suicidal tendencies
- Long-term depression
- Irresponsibility and unaccountability
- Co-dependence on others as a way of escape

Below is a related text regarding the Hittite-spirit, from a writing by Thomas Bromley who died in England in 1691. His brief treatise was called;

**The Seven Nations of Canaan,
which Joshua cast out,
prefiguring the Works of Jesus,
casting out the evil properties
they signify, out of our souls.**

The Hittites signify the *Spirits of Fear and Discouragement*. These discourage the soul continually with false fears, affrighting and terrifying it from its work. Sometimes raising up infidelity, sometimes false reasoning, thro' earthly wisdom, disputing against Faith and the Power of God; telling us, that none can come to perfection; that none can conquer the temptations and assaults of the Devil; none can overcome sin, self, and the passions and distempers of the Old Man. Sometimes they discourage from without; with the many rumours of wars and calamities, persecutions and tribulations; arguing from the opinions of learned Ministers or others, against our practice, and from the divided contrary judgments of such, from their books and writings; also from the example of multitudes, that believe and walk otherwise, and yet hope to be saved. All this, these discouraging spirits of fear, cast before the soul, to stop its wheels in going to perfection. And this they do from first to last, even till the work is ended, and perfection attained. But the Spirit of Faith, in the Name Jesus, doth at last conquer, and overcome these *Hittites*.



This teaching comes from a new publication by Peter McArthur called "[Discerning the spirits that resist](#)" due out in early September 2007.

www.issacharministry.org.au