

Backdrop: The Nations Around Israel

Opening Discussion:

1. Who are some of “ites” in the Bible (Hittites, Jebusites, etc.)?
2. How did the nations around Israel impact the political, economic, and religious culture of Israel?
3. How does the culture impact the church?

The _____ often _____ God’s people more than God’s people _____ the _____.

Three Cultures:

1. The _____

- Canaanites: including the Perizzites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites

They shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete. **Genesis 15:16**

Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean, and the land became unclean, so that I punished its iniquity, and the land vomited out its inhabitants. **Leviticus 18:24-25**

- Philistines: a nation living toward the southern Mediterranean coast of the Promised Land.

2. The _____

- Descendants of Abraham through Ishmael, not Isaac
- Both Judaism and Islam trace the modern Arab nations back to Ishmael.

3. The family _____

- The Edomites were descendants of Abraham through Esau, not Jacob
- Edom was in constant conflict with Israel

Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom: “Thus says your brother Israel: You know all the hardship that we have met . . . And here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your territory. Please let us pass through your land . . . But Edom said to him, “You shall not pass through, lest I come out with the sword against you.” . . . Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his territory, so Israel turned away from him. **Numbers 20:14-21**

- The prophets promised judgment on Edom

“I have loved you,” says the Lord. But you say, “How have you loved us?” “Is not Esau Jacob’s brother?” declares the Lord. “Yet I have loved Jacob but Esau I have hated. I have laid waste his hill country and left his heritage to jackals of the desert.” If Edom says, “We are shattered but we will rebuild the ruins,” the Lord of hosts says, “They may build, but I will tear down, and they will be called ‘the wicked country,’ and ‘the people with whom the Lord is angry forever.’ ” Your own eyes shall see this, and you shall say, “Great is the Lord beyond the border of Israel!” **Malachi 1:2-5**

Fill in the Blank Answers

The culture often impacts God’s people more than God’s people impact the culture.

1. evil, Canaanites
2. mysterious, Ishmaelites
3. feuding, Edomites