The World of the Old Testament
Fall 2026
Dr. Matthew Johnson
Week 5 - The Land of Canaan

Geography

Key Terms -

- Coastal Plain
- Shephelah
- Judean Higlands (Central Mountains)
- Jordan Rift
- Jezreel Valley

Why Canaan?

Major Peoples

- Phoenicians
- Moabites
- Ammonites
- Edomites

“While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So Israel yoked himself to Baal of Peor. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel. And the LORD said to Moses, “Take all the chiefs of the people and hang them in the sun before the LORD, that the fierce anger of the LORD may turn away from Israel.” And Moses said to the judges of Israel, “Each of you kill those of his men who have yoked themselves to Baal of Peor.”” (Numbers 25:1-5 ESV)

“So they made their father drink wine that night also. And the younger arose and lay with him, and he did not know when she lay down or when she arose. Thus both the daughters of Lot became pregnant by their father. The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab. He is the father of the Moabites to this day. The younger also bore a son and called his name Ben-ammi. He is the father of the Ammonites to this day.”
(Genesis 19:35-38 ESV)

“These are the generations of Esau the father of the Edomites in the hill country of Seir.” (Genesis 36:9 ESV)

Questions

1) What questions do you still have about the place of Canaan and its peoples?
2) What is Yahweh’s purpose in bringing Israel into Canaan? Why does Yahweh want to separate those peoples from Israel?
3) In what ways has God brought you into his people, place, and presence here in Tulsa? Why does he want to make you a part of his people, give you a place to dwell, and be present with you?