

## Peoples Surrounding Israel in the OT (Genealogical and Geographic Overview)

- I. Canaanite Peoples** (Descendants of Ham → Canaan) Primary Location: West of the Jordan River (land of Canaan) Biblical Context: Peoples present in the land prior to and during Israel's conquest (Joshua–Judges).

Major Groups Frequently Mentioned: • Hittites • Amorites • Jebusites • Hivites • Gergashites • Perizzites

Other Canaanite Groups (Genesis 10 list): • Sidonians • Arkites • Sinites • Arvadites • Zemarites • Hamathites

General Notes: • Descendants of Ham through Canaan (Genesis 10:15–19) • Occupied hill country, coastal plains, and major fortified cities • Religious practices often condemned in the Law and Prophets

- II. Israel** (Descendants of Abraham → Isaac → Jacob) Primary Location: Central hill country; later full tribal territories Biblical Identity: Covenant people of God

Lineage: • Shem → Terah → Abraham → Isaac → Jacob (Israel) • Twelve tribes descending from Jacob's twelve sons

General Notes: • Recipients of the Abrahamic covenant • Delivered from Egypt; settled in Canaan under Joshua • Central focus of Joshua–Kings narrative

- III. Other Abrahamic Relatives** (Shem Line – Kin to Israel) These descend from Abraham but not through Jacob.

A. Ishmaelites • Descendants of Ishmael (Abraham and Hagar) • Associated with desert and Arabian regions • Sometimes linked with trade caravans.

B. Edomites • Descendants of Esau (also called Edom) • Settled in Seir (south of the Dead Sea) • Often in tension or conflict with Israel

C. Midianites • Descendants of Abraham and Keturah • Located east and southeast of Israel • Appear in Exodus and Judges narratives

General Notes: • Close kin to Israel • Relationships range from cooperation to hostility

- IV. Transjordanian Kin** (Lot's Descendants – Shem Line) These descend from **Lot**, Abraham's nephew.

A. Moabites • Descendants of Moab (Lot's son) • Settled east of the Dead Sea • Complex relationship with Israel (e.g., Ruth narrative)

B. Ammonites • Descendants of Ben-Ammi (Lot's son) • Settled northeast of the Dead Sea • Frequently in conflict with Israel

General Notes: • Related to Abraham through Lot • Occupied territory east of the Jordan River • Significant in Judges, Samuel, and prophetic books

**Summary Perspective:** • Canaanites: Descendants of Ham; inhabitants of the land • Israel: Covenant line through Abraham → Isaac → Jacob • Abrahamic Relatives: Edom, Ishmael, Midian (family branches) • Lot's Line: Moab and Ammon (Transjordan kin)

Geographic Summary Table:

Group	Ancestral Line	Primary Location	General Relationship to Israel
Canaanite Peoples	Ham → Canaan	West of Jordan (hill country, coastal plain, major cities)	Inhabitants of the land; often adversarial
Israel	Shem → Abraham → Isaac → Jacob	Central hill country; later full tribal territories	Covenant people
Ishmaelites	Shem → Abraham → Ishmael	Desert regions south and east	Distant kin; trade and occasional conflict
Edom	Shem → Abraham → Isaac → Esau	South of Dead Sea (Seir)	Kin; frequent tension
Midian	Shem → Abraham → Keturah	East / southeast of Israel	Kin; episodic conflict (Judges)
Moab	Shem → Terah → Lot → Moab	East of Dead Sea	Kin; mixed relations
Ammon	Shem → Terah → Lot → Ben-Ammi	Northeast of Dead Sea	Kin; frequent conflict