

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

This document still needs some reformatting.

I. Canaanite Peoples (Descendants of Ham → Canaan)

A. Primary Location

1. West of the Jordan River (land of Canaan)

B. Biblical Context

1. Peoples present prior to and during Israel's conquest (Joshua–Judges)

C. Major Groups Frequently Mentioned

1. Hittites
2. Amorites
3. Jebusites
4. Hivites
5. Girgashites
6. Perizzites

D. Other Canaanite Groups (Genesis 10 list)

1. Sidonians
2. Arkites
3. Sinites
4. Arvadites
5. Zemarites
6. Hamathites

E. General Notes

1. Descendants of Ham through Canaan (Genesis 10:15–19)
2. Occupied hill country, coastal plains, and fortified cities
3. Religious practices often condemned in the Law and Prophets

II. Israel (Descendants of Abraham → Isaac → Jacob)

A. Primary Location

1. Central hill country
2. Later full tribal territories

B. Biblical Identity

1. Covenant people of God

C. Lineage

1. Shem → Terah → Abraham → Isaac → Jacob (Israel)
2. Twelve tribes descending from Jacob's twelve sons

D. General Notes

1. Recipients of the Abrahamic covenant
2. Delivered from Egypt; settled in Canaan under Joshua
3. Central focus of Joshua–Kings narrative

III. Other Abrahamic Relatives (Shem Line – Kin to Israel)

A. Edomites

1. Descendants of Esau (also called Edom)
2. Settled in Seir (south of the Dead Sea)
3. Often in tension or conflict with Israel

B. Ishmaelites

1. Descendants of Ishmael (Abraham and Hagar)
2. Associated with desert and Arabian regions
3. Sometimes linked with trade caravans
4. C. Midianites

- C. Descendants of Abraham and Keturah
 1. Located east and southeast of Israel
 2. Appear in Exodus and Judges narratives

- D. General Notes
 1. Close kin to Israel
 2. Relationships range from cooperation to hostility

IV. Transjordanian Kin (Lot's Descendants – Shem Line)

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

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

- C. General Notes
 1. Related to Abraham through Lot
 2. Occupied territory east of the Jordan River
 3. Significant in Judges, Samuel, and prophetic books

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
Edom	Shem → Abraham → Isaac → Esau	South of Dead Sea (Seir)	Kin; frequent tension
Ishmaelites	Shem → Abraham → Ishmael	Desert regions south and east	Distant kin; trade and occasional conflict
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