

I. The Nations Left among Israel by the Lord (vv 1, 3).**A. The Two Sides of Every Providence (v 1):**

- 1) The Natural Means used in bringing about this providence
 - a) Which are most often sensible to us
 - b) In this case, Israel's sin was the means (1:27-33, 2:2)
- 2) The Decretive Will of God (v 1; WCF 5.1)
 - a) The Nature of God's Will: (i) Holy (Psa 145:17); (ii) Just (Gal 6:7); (iii) Sovereign (Psa 135:5-6); (iv) Inscrutable (Isa 55:8-9)
 - b) The Intent of God's Will for the Church: (i) Discipline (Jdg 2:3); (ii) Refining (Jdg 2:22); (iii) Kindness (Jdg 3:2)
- 3) Use, Do not be practical atheists.

B. The Nations left among Israel by the Lord (v 3)

- 1) *These are the nations: the five lords of the Philistines [to the West] and all the Canaanites [throughout the whole land] and the Sidonians [north] and the Hivites who lived on Mount Lebanon [north], from Mount Baal-hermon [east] as far as Lebo-hamath [north].*
- 2) Use, Just as the enemies remaining were found throughout the whole land, so we know that sin pervades in the whole man and would seek to devour throughout the whole Church.

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) We are to accept the providence of God, whether hard or light (1 Sam 3:18).
- 2) Yet, at the same time, we are to be diligent in faithfulness and repentance.

II. The Purpose of Leaving These Nations (vv 2, 4).**A. Summary: To test — Not tempt, but prove (v 1, 4; Gen 22:1-2).****B. The Two Particular Purposes of this Testing**

- 1) For Israel to know war (v 2) — The point was not merely to learn who the enemies were and how to kill them; but also who the commander is and how to follow Him.
- 2) For Israel to know their faithfulness and loyalty to God (v 4)

C. Uses from the Text

- 1) The Lord continues to leave errors and heresies in the Visible Church.

a) How and Why?

- i. The means: Our sins (in allowing them to remain) and the sins of others (either the previous generation or the those bringing sin and error into the church now).
- ii. The purpose: To teach us faithfulness
- b) What are these in our own day? (1 Peter 4:17)
- 2) Are you learning to be faithful? (Hosea 14:9)
 - a) Faithfulness is mimetic and not just poetic (1 Cor 11:1).
 - b) We have a great need for ongoing sanctification in our lives and reformation in the Church.
- 3) Let us be busy raising warrior-children.
 - a) Each generation is to confess the faith.
 - b) One of the most disastrous things for the Church is when we will not war, and when our children are not taught to war.
- 4) Our confidence is ultimately in the righteousness of Christ and effectual work of the Holy Spirit.

III. The Result of This Test (vv 5-6).**A. The Four-Fold Failure of Israel**

- 1) They did not war against their enemies, but let them be (v 4)
- 2) Taking foreign wives — *And their [Canaan's] daughters they took to themselves for wives*
 - a) Violation of God's command and covenant (Dt 7:1a, 3-4; Gen 6:4b)
 - b) Warning and Application (2 Cor 6:14-15)
- 3) Giving daughters in marriage to foreign men
 - a) This neither protected their children, nor took seriously God's covenant
 - b) Warning and Application (Joel 1:3)
- 4) Idolatry — *and they served their gods* (1 John 5:20-21)

B. Use from the Text: The Excellencies of the Triune God

- 1) Christ's Bride is sheep not goats, making lovely that which is not lovely (Contra Failure 2).
- 2) The Father makes enemies sons and protects them (Contra Failure 3).
- 3) The Holy Spirit works in use true, lively, and lasting faith (Contra Failures 1, 4).