

Sermon Handout
Progressive Providence
Exodus 23:27-33

- I.** Terror upon God's enemies "I will send my fear" v. 27
- a. God is the enemy of his people's enemies v. 22 *cf.* Dt 20:1-4
 - b. Fear possessed the people of the land Josh 2:9-11 *cf.* Prov 28:1; Josh 23:9-10
"Your fear has fallen upon us." v. 9
Jericho had heard about Egypt, the wilderness battles for 40 years v. 10
"Our hearts did melt" no courage left among them v. 11
 - c. Warning: the same fear can fall upon disobedient Israel Lev 26:14-17
- II.** Hornets "I will send hornets" v. 28
- a. A symbol of Egypt's power and sovereignty
Egypt frequently raided Canaan prior to Israel's conquest
 - b. The Egyptian raids would be as nothing compared to God's war in Canaan
See Dt 7:20-21; Josh 24:11-12
 - c. The list (Hivite, Canaanite, Hittite) an *inter alia* list (synecdoche)
See Ex 3:17; Gen 13:7; 15:19-21; Dt 20:10-18
Not all the city-states are to be treated the same.
- III.** Possession of the land will be progressive vv. 29-31
- a. "Not in one year" lest the land overwhelm you vv. 29-30
Israel needed time for the population to grow
 - b. More reasons are given later Judges 2:20-3:4
 - i. To prove (test) Israel 2:22; 3:4 *cf.* Josh 23:11-13
 - ii. To teach the next generation warfare 3:2
 - c. The full extent wasn't reached until Solomon's time v. 31
- IV.** Closing the Book of the Covenant vv. 32-33
- a. God has made an exclusive covenant with Israel
 - b. Israel is not to enter entanglements with the pagans or their idols
 - c. The nations to be destroyed Dt 20:16-17; Judges 3:5-8
The fear of God (obedience) is crucial for his people
Judges 3:8; Dt 20:18; Lev 26:14-17; *cf.* Ezra 9:1-3
 - d. The consequences of disobedience are grave