

Lecture 15- The Emergence of Israel in Canaan

So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.

Josh 11:23

Key Terms

Emergence of Israel, conquest model, settlement model, revolt model, historical objection, logical objection, literary objection, archeological objection

Lecture Objectives

- Summarize the three major models of Israel's emergence in Canaan and evaluate their relative strengths and weaknesses.
- Explore the theological assumptions and implications for each model.
- Identify how each view might impact one's Christian life and ministry.

Preliminary Questions

- Some debate the understanding of Israel's entrance as a "conquest" that most of us see as part and parcel of the crumbling walls of Jericho. How have you always understood Israel's entrance into Canaan? How does that understanding support and/or shape your understanding of God's character and redemptive work in you and through you? How would you illustrate or prove your understanding to someone who disagreed with you?

The Emergence of Israel in Canaan

I. Debating Points: The Emergence of Israel in Canaan

A. Why has the biblical picture - i.e. conquest - been challenged?

1. "Historical" objection
 - a. Historical-critical method
 - b. Anti-theological bias
 - c. D.F. Strauss *Das Leben Jesu* (The Life of Christ)
 - 1) God never intervenes in history
 - 2) Enlightenment thinking
 - 3) Guilt by association
2. Logical objection
 - a. Impression that Joshua and Judges contradict each other

Explain your answer to the "logical objection."

3. Modern literary objection
 - a. Trend to read the Bible as literature
 - b. Growing anti-historical bias
 - c. Autotelic = it is its own end
 4. Archaeological objection
 - a. A lack of evidence of the type of destruction recorded
- B. How should we respond to each of these in turn?
1. "Historical" objection
 - a. Reject the atheistic *a priori* which is involved in the historical-critical method
 2. Logical objection
 - a. Recognize different perspectives

- b. Joshua - God fulfilling his promises
 - c. Judges - how did the people do occupying the land
 - d. The pictures are compatible and complementary.
3. Literary objection
- a. The purpose for a piece of literature must be determined.
 - b. Purpose of a painting illustration
 - c. The context helps us see the purpose of a smaller unit.
4. Archaeological objection
- a. An important principle: "Be a good reader."
 - 1) Be a good reader of Scripture.
 - a) Make sure Scripture is claiming what you say it is claiming.
 - 2) Be a good reader of archaeological data.
 - a) Destruction of property is the exception, not the rule.
 - b) Bryant Wood "Did the Israelites Conquer Jericho; A New Look at the Archaeological Evidence." *Biblical Archaeological Review* 1990 vol. 16
 - c) Wood reinvestigates the interpretation of the data answering Kathleen Kenyon.
 - d) Objects must be interpreted.

Summarize the various models of Israel's emergence in Canaan. Evaluate each model.

Why is evidence important to a believer's faith?