

The Kingdom of Israel, which was equal to about half of Nova Scotia, was bounded on the north by Phœnicia, the Mountains of Lebanon and Syria; on the east by Syria and the Land of Ammon; on the south by the Land of Moab, the Dead Sea and the kingdom of Judah; and on the west by the Great Sea and Phœnicia.

Besides the small extent of territory of which these kingdoms were comprised, the reader should take into consideration the great difference between that age, and this in which we live. The times of which I write were very long before gunpowder was invented and set at its work of death; and of course much longer still before steam was used to propel over land and sea, and the lightning of heaven made to convey the thoughts of man. Political and social institutions were too, very different then from what they are now. Take the institution of marriage. A man could be truly pious and yet have several wives. Polygamy, like slavery was one of those practices which in the early ages of the world God winked at. Were it otherwise it would be absurd to speak of the piety of Abijah, for instance, while he was the husband of fourteen women. Polygamy was the natural out-growth of the supposed inferiority of woman, and was calculated to perpetuate that feeling; and she never attained her proper position in society till the Christ was of woman born. To God manifest in the flesh is she indebted for the amelioration of her condition here, no less than for her hopes of eternal life hereafter. How much to comfort her, and raise her in the estimation of the other sex is there in the gracious words: "Whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, my sister, and mother."