

Canaan and its vicinity, bringing to bear upon this study much internal biblical evidence, and monumental and philological lore, I propose this evening to present a brief sketch of the ethnology of Palestine.

The common notion entertained in regard to the Canaanitic nations, is, that, with the exception of Israel, and perhaps the Arabians descended from Ishmael, they are extinct, having been at no time peoples of any historical importance as compared with the great races of the earth. This is a fundamental error, first as a matter of fact, and secondly because such a view robs their history of more than half its charm. The fact that their posterity is alive to-day in many parts of the earth and under varying conditions, yet retaining largely the original national features and character and traditions, and, with much dialectic differentiation, their language also, invests their ancient biblical records with an interest that could hardly be enlisted on behalf of a series of mere names destitute of attributes.

The land was called Canaan after the youngest son of Ham, whose descendants, presumably after the dispersion at Babel, migrated westward, and at first occupied the country from Shechem in the north down to the southern desert. The descendants of Ham's other sons, Cush and Phut, seem, by their connection with the Phount and the Ethiopians, to have entered Africa by way of Arabia Felix; but, from the mention of Mizor in the Phœnician fragment of Sanchoniatho, it would appear probable that Mizraim, the progenitor of an unhistorical or ground race, preceded the Canaanites in southern Palestine, whence pressure of an invading population drove them into Egypt to constitute its aboriginal stock. Unlike the Mizraites, Cushites and Phutim, the descendants of Canaan were the two great historical peoples of antiquity. There were but two original divisions of the Canaanites, although that name was generally given to the elder family only, for, according to the Toldoth Bene Noah, Canaan begat Sidon, his first born, and Heth. Since the days of Sanchoniatho, a writer assuredly far older than Moses, Sidon has been recognized as the progenitor of the Phœnicians, who