

## Response to Giem

*To the Editor:* Giem suggests<sup>1</sup> that our statement “the Bible reports the destruction of the Canaanite cities and the annihilation of its people”<sup>2</sup> is inaccurate and not supported by references. The Bible reports “And Israel vowed a vow unto the Lord, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities. And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah.”<sup>3</sup> Within a longer account, it further reports “And the Lord delivered them into the hand of Israel, who smote them, and chased them unto great Zidon [i.e., Sidon], and unto Misrephoth-maim, and unto the valley of Mizpeh eastward; and they smote them, until they left them none remaining. .... And all the spoil of these cities, and the cattle, the children of Israel took for a prey unto themselves; but every man they smote with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them, neither left they any to breathe.”<sup>4</sup>

Our work aimed to shed light on the relationships of Canaanites to ancient and present-day populations from a genetic point of view, rather than disputing the Bible or starting a Biblical discussion in the pages of a genetics journal.

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### References

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajhg.2018.01.002>.

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