Before Israel ever crossed the Jordan, God warned continually in very explicit terms with regards the nations that occupied the land He was giving them as an inheritance. Exodus twenty-three states they must not be permitted to remain, "or they will make you sin against me; for if you worship their gods, it will surely be a snare to you."

Again, Numbers chapter thirty-three reads, "But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides."

And again, Deuteronomy chapter seven, "When the LORD your God gives them over to you and you defeat them, then you must utterly destroy them, and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, for that would turn away your children from following me, to serve their gods."

In other words, allowing these utterly depraved people to live among the Israelites would eventually cause their deplorable ways to live in them.

Moses' successor Joshua continued to warn the children of Israel about this. His very last words were that if they let the Canaanites continue to live in the land, they would be traps and snares to them and they themselves would perish from the good land that God had given them.

Unfortunately, Israel did not fully heed these constant reminders for complete annihilation. The writer of Judges opens the first chapter stressing that they chose to subject the natives to forced labour instead.

Immediately, God's Angel came up from Gilgal to confront the whole nation saying, "See what you have done! So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become adversaries to you."

We are also told that after Joshua had died, and that whole generation had also passed away, "Another generation grew up after them, who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel." This new generation abandoned the Lord completely and "worshipped Baal and the Astartes."