The Animals and the Nations

Disciple copy — Pleasant Springs Church, Discipleship School

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

The full study online: ps-church.com/deep-research/deuteronomy-7-20-22

A verse nobody underlines

> **Deuteronomy 7:22 (ESV)** — "The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you **little by little**. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the **wild beasts** grow too numerous for you."

God promised Israel the land — but not all at once. And the reason he gives is _____.

1 · The hornet

> **Deuteronomy 7:20 (ESV)** — "Moreover, the LORD your God will send **hornets** among them, until those who are left and hide themselves from you are destroyed."

The Hebrew word for "hornet" appears only _____ times in the whole Old Testament: Exodus 23:28, Deuteronomy 7:20, and Joshua 24:12.

> **Joshua 24:12 (ESV)** — "And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; **it was not by your sword or by your bow**."

What was the hornet? Real insects? A picture of panic (Exodus 23:27, "I will send my terror before you")? Something else? **Nobody knows for certain.** But it was _____, and God _____ it.

> **Zechariah 4:10 (ESV)** — "For whoever has despised the day of _____ things shall rejoice…"

➤ **God fights with small things.**

2 · Little by little — and why

> **Exodus 23:29–30 (ESV)** — "I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the wild beasts multiply against you. Little by little I will drive them out from before you, **until you have increased** and possess the land."

If the land had emptied overnight, the wild would have taken it faster than Israel could fill it. So for a while, God used the very nations he was removing to _____ the land for his people.

> **2 Kings 17:25 (ESV)** — "And at the beginning of their dwelling there, they did not fear the LORD. Therefore the LORD sent **lions** among them, which killed some of them."

An emptied land goes _____.

➤ **"Little by little" is not weakness. It is _____.**

Applying it to us *(by analogy — the verse itself is about land):*

> **2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)** — "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image **from one degree of glory to another**."
>
> **Philippians 1:6 (ESV)** — "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

What "enemy" in my life has God not removed yet?

3 · The same little word

The Hebrew word behind "little by little" is the word for _____.

> **Deuteronomy 7:7 (ESV)** — "It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the **fewest** of all peoples..."
>
> **Leviticus 26:22 (ESV)** — "And I will let loose the wild beasts against you, which shall bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock and **make you few** in number..."
>
> **Leviticus 26:6 (ESV)** — "...And I will **remove harmful beasts** from the land, and the sword shall not go through your land."

You were the few — so I will go little by little. God's pace matches his people's _____.

➤ Whether the wild stays in its place is a _____ matter.

4 · When animals stood for nations

> **Leviticus 20:24–25 (ESV)** — "I am the LORD your God, who has **separated you from the peoples**. You shall **therefore** separate the clean beast from the unclean…"

Every meal on an Israelite table was a picture of Israel and the _____.

> **Acts 10:12–13, 15 (ESV)** — "In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.'… 'What God has made clean, do not call common.'"
>
> **Acts 10:28 (ESV)** — "God has shown me that I should not call any _____ common or unclean."

➤ Peter tells us himself: the animals were about the _____.

Whom have I been calling common?

5 · Where the animals end up

> **Isaiah 11:6 (ESV)** — "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them."
>
> **Isaiah 11:10 (ESV)** — "In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the **nations** inquire…"

The animals make _____, and the nations _____. Same chapter, same king.

> **Hosea 2:18 (ESV)** — "And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field… And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety."

The wild beasts and the _____ end together.

> **Mark 1:13 (ESV)** — "…And he was **with** the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him."

What this chapter does *not* hand us

Deuteronomy 7 was **bounded** — seven named peoples, one land, one moment, by direct command. Its own reason was worship, not ancestry (7:4). **It is no warrant for anyone to harm anyone today.**

> **Luke 9:55 (ESV)** — "But he turned and rebuked them."
>
> **2 Corinthians 10:4 (ESV)** — "For the weapons of our warfare are not of the _____ but have divine power to destroy strongholds."

Three things to remember

1. **God fights with _____ things.** "It was not by your sword or by your bow."
2. **God works little by little, and the slowness is _____.**
3. **Call no one _____.** The animals were about the nations.

Closing prayer

> *Father, you sent a hornet where we would have sent an army, and you went slowly where we would have rushed. Thank you for every small thing you have sent ahead of us, and for every enemy you have not yet removed because we were not yet ready. Forgive us for the people we have quietly called common. Make us patient with your pace, gentle with the nations, and hungry for the day when the wolf lies down with the lamb. In the name of Jesus, Amen.*

Take it further — the full study

	Topic	What it covers
1	The Hornet	All three occurrences, the ways it has been read, and a difference in the Greek of Joshua 24
2	Little by Little	Exodus 23 and Deuteronomy 7 side by side, and the lions of Samaria
3	The Beast of the Field	Genesis 2–3, the word "few," and the verb "send"
4	Animals for Nations	Leviticus 20, Daniel 7, and Peter's sheet
5	The Peaceable Kingdom	Isaiah 11, Romans 15, Hosea 2, and Jesus "with the wild animals"

ps-church.com/deep-research/deuteronomy-7-20-22 — the Hebrew, the Greek Old Testament and the ESV side by side, and the full Deuteronomy 7 study at ps-church.com/deep-research/deuteronomy-7-1-26.

My notes

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