

periods of history. However, when we look at the context we find that this is the only statement that says ~~===~~ that seems to say that the reason God left these heathen nations around was so that Israelites could learn to fight. [check this]

There are a number of statements that give another reason for why God did not drive out all the other peoples before them. The <sup>four</sup> last three verses of the previous ch. read as follows: "And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and he said, Because that this people hath ~~gransgressed~~ my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto ~~me~~ my voice; I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died: That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not. Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; deither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua." (KJV)

Also in the NASB they read as follows: "So the anger of the LORD burned against Israel, and He said, "Because this nation has transgressed My covenant which I commanded their fathers, and has not listened to My voice, I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which ~~xxx~~ Joshua left when he died, in order to test Israel by them, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk in it as their fathers did, or not." So the LORD allowed those nations to remain, not driving them out quickly; and He did not give them into the hand of Joshua." In these passages it is clearly stated that the reason why these nations (peoples) were left was in order to test Israel to see whether they would keep the way of the LORD. Similarly in v. 24 reads as follows in the KJV: "And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the