

# Joshua 24:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, even the Amorites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God.

## Analysis

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**The LORD drove out from before us all the people**—Israel correctly attributes conquest success not to military prowess but to YHWH's direct intervention. The verb *garash* ('drive out') appears throughout conquest accounts, emphasizing that God expelled Canaan's inhabitants as judge executing sentence on accumulated iniquity (Genesis 15:16).

**Therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God**—The logical connector 'therefore' (*gam*, 'also/indeed') makes covenant service a response to received benefits. Yet this conditionality exposes the people's shallow theology—they'll serve God because He's proven useful. True covenant love serves God for His own sake, not merely for benefits. When trials came (Judges 2:15), this mercenary devotion collapsed.

## Historical Context

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The Amorites were a major Canaanite people group. Their expulsion fulfilled God's promise to Abraham (Genesis 15:16) that judgment would come when 'the iniquity of the Amorites is full.' Archaeological evidence shows widespread destruction of Canaanite cities in the late Bronze Age (circa 1400-1200 BC).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How can you tell whether your service to God is motivated by genuine love for Him or primarily by the benefits and blessings He provides?
2. What happens to 'therefore' theology when God's benefits seem to disappear or when faithfulness brings suffering rather than prosperity?
3. How does understanding Canaan's conquest as divine judgment on accumulated wickedness inform Christian views on God's patience, justice, and the reality of final judgment?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאָמַרְתָּ אַתָּה יְהוָה רַשְׁתָּךְ  
drive out And the LORD H853 H3605  
H1644 H3068

כָּל אֲתָּה קָעֵמָה יְמָם וְאַתָּה  
us all the people H5971 H853  
H567

וְשָׁב בָּאָרֶץ מִפְּנֵי יְכוֹנֵן אָנָּחָנוּ גַם  
which dwelt in the land from before H1571 H587  
H3427 H776 H6440

נִשְׁאַב דְּרָאָנָּא  
therefore will we also serve H5647  
H1931 H430

אַתָּה יְהוָה כִּי וְאַתָּה אֱלֹהֵינוּ  
And the LORD H3588 H1931 for he is our God  
H3068 H430

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