

# Joshua 24:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I brought you into the land of the Amorites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand, that ye might possess their land; and I destroyed them from before you.

## Analysis

**I brought you into the land of the Amorites**—(יְאִבֵּיא אֶתְכֶם אֶל-אֶרֶץ הָאָמֹרִים) the Amorites (אָמֹרִים) were one of Canaan's primary inhabitants, sometimes used generically for all Canaanite peoples. Their territory east of Jordan (modern-day Jordan) included the kingdoms of Sihon and Og. The verb bo (to bring) again emphasizes divine initiative—God led Israel into battle.

**I gave them into your hand...I destroyed them from before you** (זִבְּחָתָם אֶתְכֶם—בְּיָדָם...זִבְּחָתָם אֶתְכֶם מִפְנִים) the repeated first-person pronouns ('I gave,' 'I destroyed') appear ten times in verses 3-13, establishing God as the sole actor in conquest. The verb shamad (שִׁמְדָד, to destroy/exterminate) refers to the herem (חֶרֶם, devotion to destruction) commanded for Canaanite nations (Deuteronomy 7:2). This divine judgment came after 400 years of patience (Genesis 15:16—'the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full'). Israel functioned as God's instrument of justice against idolatrous wickedness.

## Historical Context

The conquest of the Transjordan Amorite kingdoms (Sihon of Heshbon and Og of Bashan) occurred in 1406 BC, just before crossing the Jordan (Numbers 21:21-35, Deuteronomy 2:26-3:11). These victories gave Israel confidence for Canaan

conquest and provided inheritance for Reuben, Gad, and half-tribe of Manasseh. Archaeological evidence shows destruction layers at numerous Canaanite sites dating to the late 15th or 13th century BC (depending on Exodus dating). The Amorites practiced child sacrifice, ritual prostitution, and extreme violence, justifying divine judgment.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

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

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does the repeated 'I gave...I destroyed' combat human pride and self-reliance after military victory?
2. What does 400 years of patience before judging the Amorites reveal about God's justice and mercy?
3. How should Christians understand Old Testament herem (devoted destruction) in light of God's holy justice against sin?

## Interlinear Text

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הַיּוֹשֵׁב  
בְּאָמֹרִי  
אֶרְצָם אֶל אֶתְכֶם תְּאַבֵּיה  
And I brought      H853      H413      H776      H567      H3427  
                    H935

תְּאַת | בְּעֵבֶר  
וְאַתְּ | וְלֹכֶם | אֶתְכֶם |  
on the other side      Jordan      and they fought      H854      with you and I gave  
                    H5676      H3383      H3898      H5414

אֶרְצָם אֶת |  
וְתִרְשֵׁשׁ |  
וְאַתְּ |  
בְּיַדְכֶם |  
אֶת |  
אֶרְצָם  
H853      them into your hand      that ye might possess      H854      H853      their land  
                    H3027      H3423      H776

מִפְנֵיכֶם:      תִּאֲשִׁמֵּיד |  
and I destroyed      them from before  
                    H8045      H6440

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