

# 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** (וַאֲבִיא אֶתְכֶם אֶל־אֶרֶץ הָאֲמֹרִי)—the Amorites (אֲמֹרִי) 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** (וַאֲנִי נָתַתִּי אוֹתָם בְּיָדְךָ...וַאֲנִי שָׁמַדְתִּים מִפְּנֵיכֶם)—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* (שָׁמַד, to destroy/exterminate) refers to the *herem* (חֵרֶם, 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

**Psalms 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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וָאֲבִי יָאָה	אֶתְּךָ מִ	אֶל	אֶרֶץ מִ	הָאֱמֹרִי	הַיֹּשֵׁב
And I brought	H853	H413	their land	of the Amorites	which dwelt
H935			H776	H567	H3427
בְּעַרְבֵי	הַיַּרְדֵּי	וַלָּחֶמ וְ	אֶתְּךָ מִ	וְאֶתְּךָ	
on the other side	Jordan	and they fought	H854	with you and I gave	
H5676	H3383	H3898		H5414	
אֹתָם מִ	בְּיָדְךָ	וְתִירָשׁ וְ	אֶתְּךָ מִ	אֶרֶץ מִ	
H853	them into your hand	that ye might possess	H853	their land	
	H3027	H3423		H776	
וַאֲשַׁמֵּיד מִ	מִפְּנֵיהֶם:				
and I destroyed	them from before				
H8045	H6440				

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