

~AMORITE (1180)

(Am'or-ite)

.. A Dominant Tribe In Canaan

.. Conquest By Israel

.. The Amurru

- The **Amorite** appears among the list of the sons of Canaan, but elsewhere this term, always in the singular in the Hebrew text, is used collectively of the Canaanite tribe descended from the original **Amorite**. They were, therefore, a Hamitic race.

- And the sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim and Put and Canaan. (**Genesis 10:6**)

- And Canaan became father to Sidon his firstborn and Heth (**Genesis 10:15**)

- And the Jebusite and the **Amorite** and the Girgashite (**Genesis 10:16**)

- As for Canaan, he became father to Sidon his firstborn and Heth (**1 Chronicles 1:13**)

- And the Jebusite and the **Amorite** and the Girgashite (**1 Chronicles 1:14**)

- In Abraham's time the king of Elam in coalition with three other kings raided to the South of Canaan and defeated some of the **Amorites** dwelling at Hazazon-tamar, thought to be located Southwest of the Dead Sea. Three **Amorite** men living near or in Hebron were then confederates of Abram and as such aided him in pursuing and defeating the invading kings, thereby rescuing his nephew Lot.

- Now it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim. (**Genesis 14:1**)

- That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela that is to say, Zoar. (**Genesis 14:2**)

- All these marched as allies to the Low Plain of Siddim, that is, the

Salt Sea. (Genesis 14:3)

- Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled. (Genesis 14:4)
- And in the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer came, and also the kings who were with him, and they inflicted defeats on the Rephaim in Ashterothkarnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shavehkiriathaim. (Genesis 14:5)
- And the Horites in their mountain of Seir, down to Elparan, which is at the wilderness. (Genesis 14:6)
- Then they turned about and came to Enmishpat, that is, Kadesh, and defeated the whole field of the Amalekites and also the **Amorites** who were dwelling in Hazazontamar. (Genesis 14:7)
- At this point the king of Sodom went on the march, and also the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela, that is to say, Zoar, and they drew up in battle order against them in the Low Plain of Siddim. (Genesis 14:8)
- Against Chedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim and Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against the five. (Genesis 14:9)
- Now the Low Plain of Siddim was pits upon pits of bitumen, and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah took to flight and went falling into them, and those who remained fled to the mountainous region. (Genesis 14:10)
- Then the victors took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on their way. (Genesis 14:11)
- They also took Lot the son of Abram's brother and his goods and continued on their way. He was then dwelling in Sodom. (Genesis 14:12)
- After that a man who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew. He was then tabernacling among the big trees of Mamre the **Amorite**, the brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and they were confederates of Abram. (Genesis 14:13)

- **Thus Abram got to hear that his brother had been taken captive. With that he mustered his trained men, three hundred and eighteen slaves born in his household, and went in pursuit up to Dan. ([Genesis 14:14](#))**
- **And by night he resorted to dividing his forces, he and his slaves, against them, and thus he defeated them and kept in pursuit of them up to Hobah, which is north of Damascus. ([Genesis 14:15](#))**
- **And he proceeded to recover all the goods, and he recovered also Lot his brother and his goods and also the women and the people. ([Genesis 14:16](#))**
- **Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him after he returned from defeating Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, to the Low Plain of Shaveh, that is, the kings Low Plain. ([Genesis 14:17](#))**
- **And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine, and he was priest of the Most High God. ([Genesis 14:18](#))**
- **Then he blessed him and said; Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, producer of heaven and earth. ([Genesis 14:19](#))**
- **And blessed be the Most High God, who has delivered your oppressors into your hand! At that Abram gave him a tenth of everything. ([Genesis 14:20](#))**
- **After that the king of Sodom said to Abram; Give me the souls, but take the goods for yourself. ([Genesis 14:21](#))**
- **At this Abram said to the king of Sodom; I do lift up my hand in an oath to Yehowah the Most High God, Producer of heaven and earth. ([Genesis 14:22](#))**
- **That, from a thread to a sandal lace, no, I shall take nothing from anything that is yours, in order, that you may not say; It was I who made Abram rich. ([Genesis 14:23](#))**
- **Nothing for me! Only what the young men have already eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol and Mamre, let them take their share. ([Genesis 14:24](#))**

- Still, sometime thereafter God advised Abraham that when the error of the **Amorites** had finally come to completion, Abraham's descendants would return to Canaan from an alien land and would take possession of the **Amorite's** land.

- And he began to say to Abram; You may know for sure that your seed will become an alien resident in a land not theirs, and they will have to serve them, and these will certainly afflict them for four hundred years. (**Genesis 15:13**)

- But the nation that they will serve I am judging, and after that they will go out with many goods. (**Genesis 15:14**)

- As for you, you will go to your forefathers in peace. You will be buried at a good old age. (**Genesis 15:15**)

- But in the fourth generation they will return here, because the error of the **Amorites** has not yet come to completion. (**Genesis 15:16**)

- The sun was now setting and a dense darkness came and, look! A smoking furnace and a fiery torch that passed in between these pieces. (**Genesis 15:17**)

- On that day Yehowah concluded with Abram a covenant, saying, To your seed I will give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates. (**Genesis 15:18**)

- The Kenites and the Kenizzites and the Kadmonites. (**Genesis 15:19**)

- And the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Rephaim. (**Genesis 15:20**)

- And the **Amorites** and the Canaanites and the Girgashites and the Jebusites. (**Genesis 15:21**)

- Shortly before Jacob's death in Egypt, that patriarch promised Joseph; I do give you one shoulder of land more than to your brothers, which I took from the hand of the **Amorites** by my sword and by my bow.

- As for me, I do give you one shoulder of land more than to your brothers, which I took from the hand of the **Amorites** by my

sword and by my bow. (**Genesis 48:22**)

- Since the word rendered shoulder in this text is *shekhem* in Hebrew, some have claimed that Jacob was here referring to the plot of ground he had purchased near Shechem, Hebrew, *Shekhem*.
- In time Jacob came safe and sound to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, while he was coming from Paddanaram, and he pitched camp in front of the city. (**Genesis 33:18**)
- Then he acquired a tract of the field where he pitched his tent at the hand of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem, for a hundred pieces of money. (**Genesis 33:19**)
- The purchase was a peaceable transaction, however, and there is no record of any battle waged by Jacob in connection with the land. While Jacob's sons later did make a savage attack on the people of Shechem, Jacob disavowed responsibility for the act at the time
- At this Jacob said to Simeon and to Levi; You have brought ostracism upon me in making me a stench to the inhabitants of the land, with the Canaanites and the Perizzites. Whereas I am few in number, and they will certainly gather together against me and assault me and I must be annihilated, I and my house. (**Genesis 34:30**)
- And on his deathbed he cursed the anger of Simeon and Levi, that had motivated the attack.
- Simeon and Levi are brothers. Instruments of violence are their slaughter weapons. (**Genesis 49:5**)
- Into their intimate group do not come, O my soul. With their congregation do not become united, O my disposition, because in their anger they killed men, and in their arbitrariness they hamstrung bulls. (**Genesis 49:6**)
- Cursed be their anger, because it is cruel, and their fury, because it acts harshly. Let me parcel them out in Jacob and let me scatter them in Israel. (**Genesis 49:7**)
- Thus, it seems more reasonable to understand Jacob's promise as a prophetic utterance in which he envisioned by faith the future conquest of Canaan as though it were already effected, with Jacob

taking the land of the **Amorites** vicariously through the sword and bow of his descendants.

· A Dominant Tribe In Canaan

- Some commentators consider the term **Amorites** as used at;
- But in the fourth generation they will return here, because the error of the **Amorites** has not yet come to completion. (**Genesis 15:16**)
- As for me, I do give you one shoulder of land more than to your brothers, which I took from the hand of the **Amorites** by my sword and by my bow. (**Genesis 48:22**)
- To represent the peoples of Canaan as a whole. The **Amorites** do appear to have been the principal or dominant tribe in Canaan at the time of the Israelite Exodus from Egypt.
- Yehowah our God spoke to us in Horeb, saying; You have dwelt long enough in this mountainous region. (**Deuteronomy 1:6**)
- Turn and set out on your way and go into the mountainous region of the Amorites and to all their neighbors in the Arabah, the mountainous region and the Shephelah and the Negeb and the seacoast, the land of the Canaanites, and Lebanon, up to the great river, the river Euphrates. (**Deuteronomy 1:7**)
- See, I do put the land before you people. Go in and take possession of the land about which Yehowah swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give it to them and their seed after them. (**Deuteronomy 1:8**)
- And you kept grumbling in your tents and saying; It was because Yehowah hated us that he brought us out of the land of Egypt to give us into the hand of the **Amorites**, to annihilate us. (**Deuteronomy 1:27**)
- Then we pulled away from Horeb and went marching through all that great and fear-inspiring wilderness, which you have seen, by the way of the mountainous region of the **Amorites**, just as Yehowah our God had commanded us, and we eventually came to Kadesh-barnea. (**Deuteronomy 1:19**)

- I now said to you; You have come to the mountainous region of the **Amorites**, which Yehowah our God is giving to us. (**Deuteronomy 1:20**)
- See, Yehowah your God has abandoned the land to you. Go up, take possession, just as Yehowah the God of your forefathers has spoken to you. Do not be afraid, nor be terrified. (**Deuteronomy 1:21**)
- Now if it is bad in your eyes to serve Yehowah, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, whether the gods that your forefathers who were on the other side of the River served or the gods of the **Amorites** in whose land you are dwelling. But as for me and my household, we shall serve Yehowah. (**Joshua 24:15**)
- And Yehowah proceeded to drive out all the peoples, even the **Amorites**, dwelling in the land from before us. As for us, too, we shall serve Yehowah, because he is our God. (**Joshua 24:18**)
- Furthermore, I said to you; I am Yehowah your God. You must not fear the gods of the **Amorites** in whose land you are dwelling. And you did not listen to my voice. (**Judges 6:10**)
- If this is so, then it would be understandable that, at times, other subordinate and related tribes should be referred to under the name of the dominant tribe of the **Amorites**. Thus, at;
- However, they presumed to go up to the top of the mountain, but the ark of Yehowah's covenant and Moses did not move away from the midst of the camp. (**Numbers 14:44**)
- Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who were dwelling in that mountain came on down and began striking them and went scattering them as far as Hormah. (**Numbers 14:45**)
- The account states that Amalekites and Canaanites handed the Israelites their first military defeat, whereas Moses recapitulation of events at (**Deuteronomy Chapter 1**) simply says the **Amorites** administered the defeat.
- Then the **Amorites** who were dwelling in that mountain came out to meet you and went chasing you, just as bees do, and scattering you in Seir as far as Hormah. (**Deuteronomy 1:44**)

- Likewise, Jerusalem is said to be ruled by an **Amorite** king at;
- At this they gathered together and went on up, five kings of the **Amorites**, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, these and all their camps, and they proceeded to camp against Gibeon and to war against it. (**Joshua 10:5**)
- And you must say; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said to Jerusalem; Your origin and your birth were from the land of the Canaanite. Your father was the **Amorite**, and your mother was a Hittite. (**Ezekiel 16:3**)
- You are the daughter of your mother, one abhorring her husband and her sons. And you are the sister of your sisters, who abhorred their husbands and their sons. The mother of you women was a Hittite, and your father was an **Amorite**. (**Ezekiel 16:45**)
- But is shown elsewhere to be inhabited by Jebusites.
- And the boundary went up to the valley of the son of Hinnom to the slope of the Jebusite at the south, that is to say; Jerusalem, and the boundary went up to the top of the mountain that faces the valley of Hinnom to the west, which is at the extremity of the low plain of Rephaim to the north. (**Joshua 15:8**)
- As for the Jebusites who were dwelling in Jerusalem, the sons of Judah were not able to drive them away, and the Jebusites continue dwelling with the sons of Judah in Jerusalem down to this day (**Joshua 15:63**)
- And the sons of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites inhabiting Jerusalem, but the Jebusites keep on dwelling with the sons of Benjamin in Jerusalem down to this day. (**Judges 1:21**)
- Also the case of Gibeon at;
- At this the men of Israel said to the Hivites; Perhaps it is in our vicinity that you are dwelling. So how could we conclude a covenant with you? (**Joshua 9:7**)

- In a similar manner, the name of one tribe of the nation of Israel, Judah, came to apply to all Israelites through the appellation Jew. Nevertheless, the **Amorites** are also listed separately among the independent Canaanite tribes.
- And I am proceeding to go down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a land good and spacious, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the locality of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the **Amorites** and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. (**Exodus 3:8**)
- For my angel will go ahead of you and will indeed bring you to the **Amorites** and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Canaanites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, and I shall certainly efface them. (**Exodus 23:23**)
- You must not bow down to their gods or be induced to serve them, and you must not make anything like their works, but you will without fail throw them down and you will without fail break down their sacred pillars. (**Exodus 23:24**)
- For your part keep what I am commanding you today. Here I am driving out from before you the **Amorites** and the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. (**Exodus 34:11**)
- Watch yourself that you do not conclude a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you are going, for fear it may prove itself a snare in your midst. (**Exodus 34:12**)
- But their altars you people are to pull down, and their sacred pillars you are to shatter, and their sacred poles you are to cut down. (**Exodus 34:13**)
- For you must not prostrate yourself to another god, because Yehowah, whose name is Jealous, he is a jealous God. (**Exodus 34:14**)
- For fear that you may conclude a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, as they will certainly have immoral intercourse with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone will be certain to invite you, and you will certainly eat some of his sacrifice. (**Exodus 34:15**)

- They composed one of the seven nations more populous and mighty than Israel, all devoted to destruction, with whom Israel was to make no covenant, form no marriage alliance, nor share in false worship.
- When Yehowah your God at last brings you into the land to which you are going so as to take possession of it, he must also clear away populous nations from before you, the Hittites and the Girgashites and the **Amorites** and the Canaanites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, seven nations more populous and mighty than you are. (**Deuteronomy 7:1**)
- And Yehowah your God will certainly abandon them to you, and you must defeat them. You should without fail devote them to destruction. You must conclude no covenant with them nor show them any favor. (**Deuteronomy 7:2**)
- And you must form no marriage alliance with them. Your daughter you must not give to his son, and his daughter you must not take for your son. (**Deuteronomy 7:3**)
- For he will turn your son from following me, and they will certainly serve other gods, and Yehowah's anger will indeed blaze against you, and he will certainly annihilate you in a hurry. (**Deuteronomy 7:4**)
- The 12 spies Moses sent into Canaan found the mountainous region occupied by **Amorites**, Hittites, and Jebusites, while the Amalekites resided in the Negeb, and the Canaanites dwelt by the sea and by the Jordan.
- Yehowah now spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 13:1**)
- Send out for yourself men that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the sons of Israel. You will send out one man for each tribe of his fathers, each one a chieftain among them. (**Numbers 13:2**)
- The Amalekites are dwelling in the land of the Negeb, and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the **Amorites** are dwelling in the mountainous region, and the Canaanites are dwelling by the sea and by the side of the Jordan. (**Numbers 13:29**)

- As previously in Abraham's time, **Amorites** still resided at Hebron as well as in other cities in the mountains West of the Jordan.
- At this they gathered together and went on up, five kings of the **Amorites**, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, these and all their camps, and they proceeded to camp against Gibeon and to war against it. (**Joshua 10:5**)
- However, by the time of Israel's Exodus, they had invaded Moabite and Ammonite territory East of the Jordan, taking possession of the region from the torrent valley of Arnon in the South, thereafter the border of Moab, up to the torrent valley of Jabbok in the North, the border of Ammon.
- From there they pulled away and went camping in the region of the Arnon, which is in the wilderness that extends from the border of the **Amorites**, for the Arnon is the boundary of Moab, between Moab and the **Amorites**. (**Numbers 21:13**)
- At that Israel struck him with the edge of the sword and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, near the sons of Ammon, because Jazer is the border of the sons of Ammon. (**Numbers 21:24**)
- For Heshbon was the city of Sihon. He was the king of the **Amorites**, and it was he who fought with the king of Moab formerly and went taking all his land out of his hand as far as the Arnon. (**Numbers 21:26**)
- Sihon the king of the **Amorites**, who dwelt in Heshbon, ruling from Aroer, which was on the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the middle of the torrent valley, and half of Gilead as far as Jabbok the torrent valley, the boundary of the sons of Ammon. (**Joshua 12:2**)
- Thus they took possession of all the territory of the **Amorites** from the Arnon as far as the Jabbok and from the wilderness as far as the Jordan. (**Judges 11:22**)
- This was the realm of **Amorite** King Sihon, described by Josephus the Jewish historian as a region situated between three rivers, the Jordan, the Arnon, and the Jabbok, which give it something of the nature of an island. [**Jewish Antiquities, IV, 95, v, 2**]

- Additionally, to the North of Sihon's realm, there was another **Amorite** kingdom centered in Bashan under King Og. The southern border of his kingdom seems to have been contiguous with the territories of Sihon and of the Ammonites, thus extending from the Jabbok in the South up to Mount Hermon in the North.
- Then we turned and went up by the way of Bashan. At this Og the king of Bashan came on out, he and all his people, to meet us in battle at Edrei. (**Deuteronomy 3:1**)
- And we proceeded to take at that particular time the land from the hand of the two kings of the **Amorites** who were in the region of the Jordan, from the torrent valley of Arnon as far as Mount Hermon. (**Deuteronomy 3:8**)

•• Conquest By Israel

- Drawing near the Promised Land and under divine orders not to trespass on the territories of Moab and Ammon.
- Yehowah then said to me; Do not molest Moab or engage in war with them, because I shall not give you any of his land as a holding, for to the sons of Lot I have given Ar as a holding. (**Deuteronomy 2:9**)
- Only you did not go near the land of the sons of Ammon, the whole bank of the torrent valley of Jabbok, nor the cities of the mountainous region, nor anything about which Yehowah our God had given command. (**Deuteronomy 2:37**)
- The Israelites requested a transit permit from King Sihon at his capital city, Heshbon, offering stringent guarantees.
- Let me pass through your land. We shall not turn off into a field or a vineyard. We shall drink water of no well. On the kings road we shall march until we pass through your territory. (**Numbers 21:22**)
- Instead, Sihon struck at Israel with his combined forces and was summarily defeated a short distance from Heshbon, at Yahaz, his entire territory falling into Israelite possession.
- Israel now sent messengers to Sihon the king of the **Amorites**,

saying; (**Numbers 21:21**)

- Let me pass through your land. We shall not turn off into a field or a vineyard. We shall drink water of no well. On the kings road we shall march until we pass through your territory. (**Numbers 21:22**)
- And Sihon did not allow Israel to pass through his territory, but Sihon gathered all his people and went out to meet Israel in the wilderness, and came to Jahaz and began fighting with Israel. (**Numbers 21:23**)
- At that Israel struck him with the edge of the sword and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, near the sons of Ammon, because Jazer is the border of the sons of Ammon. (**Numbers 21:24**)
- So Israel took all these cities, and Israel began dwelling in all the cities of the **Amorites**, in Heshbon and all its dependent towns. (**Numbers 21:25**)
- For Heshbon was the city of Sihon. He was the king of the **Amorites**, and it was he who fought with the king of Moab formerly and went taking all his land out of his hand as far as the Arnon. (**Numbers 21:26**)
- That is why the sayers of mock verses would say; Come to Heshbon. Let the city of Sihon be built and be proved firmly set up. (**Numbers 21:27**)
- For a fire has come out of Heshbon, a flame from the town of Sihon. It has consumed Ar of Moab, the owners of the high places of the Arnon. (**Numbers 21:28**)
- Woe to you, Moab! You will certainly perish, O people of Chemosh! He will certainly give his sons as escaped one's and his daughters in the captivity to the king of the **Amorites**, Sihon. (**Numbers 21:29**)
- So let us shoot at them. Heshbon will certainly perish up to Dibon; And the women up to Nophah, the men up to Medeba. (**Numbers 21:30**)
- And Israel began to dwell in the land of the **Amorites**. (**Numbers**

21:31)

- Then Moses sent some to spy on Jazer. So they captured its dependent towns and dispossessed the **Amorites** who were there. (**Numbers 21:32**)
- Get up, pull away and cross the torrent valley of Arnon. See, I have given into your hand Sihon the king of Heshbon, the **Amorite**. So start to take possession of his land, and engage in war with him. (**Deuteronomy 2:24**)
- This day I shall start to put the dread of you and the fear of you before the peoples beneath all the heavens, who will hear the report about you, and they will indeed be agitated and have pains like those of childbirth because of you. (**Deuteronomy 2:25**)
- Then I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon the king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying; (**Deuteronomy 2:26**)
- Let me pass through your land. Only on the road I shall walk. I shall not turn to the right or to the left. (**Deuteronomy 2:27**)
- What food you will sell me for money, I must eat, and what water you will give me for money, I must drink. Only let me pass through on my feet. (**Deuteronomy 2:28**)
- Just the same as the sons of Esau dwelling in Seir and the Moabites dwelling in Ar did to me, until I shall pass over the Jordan into the land that Yehowah our God is giving to us. (**Deuteronomy 2:29**)
- And Sihon the king of Heshbon did not let us pass through him, because Yehowah your God had let his spirit become obstinate and his heart become hard, in order to give him into your hand just as at this day. (**Deuteronomy 2:30**)
- At this Yehowah said to me; See, I have started to abandon Sihon and his land to you. Start to take possession of his land. (**Deuteronomy 2:31**)
- When Sihon came on out, he and all his people, to meet us in battle at Jahaz. (**Deuteronomy 2:32**)

- Then Yehowah our God abandoned him to us, so that we defeated him and his sons and all his people. (**Deuteronomy 2:33**)
- And we went capturing all his cities at that particular time and devoting every city to destruction, men and women and little children. We left no survivor. (**Deuteronomy 2:34**)
- Only the domestic animals did we take as plunder for ourselves, together with the spoil of the cities that we had captured. (**Deuteronomy 2:35**)
- From Aroer, which is by the bank of the torrent valley of Arnon, and the city that is in the torrent valley, as far as Gilead, there proved to be no town that was too high up for us. Yehowah our God abandoned them all to us. (**Deuteronomy 2:36**)
- Invading neighboring King Og's territory, Israel also vanquished this **Amorite** ruler, capturing 60 fortified cities.
- After that they turned and went up by the way of Bashan. At this Og the king of Bashan came out to meet them, he and all his people, to the battle of Edrei. (**Numbers 21:33**)
- Yehowah now said to Moses; Do not be afraid of him, for into your hand I shall certainly give him and all his people and his land, and you must do to him just as you did to Sihon, the king of the **Amorites**, who used to dwell in Heshbon. (**Numbers 21:34**)
- So they went striking him and his sons and all his people, until there was no survivor remaining to him, and they went taking possession of his land. (**Numbers 21:35**)
- Then we turned and went up by the way of Bashan. At this Og the king of Bashan came on out, he and all his people, to meet us in battle at Edrei. (**Deuteronomy 3:1**)
- So Yehowah said to me; Do not be afraid of him, for I shall certainly give him and all his people and his land into your hand, and you must do to him just as you did to Sihon the king of the **Amorites**, who was dwelling in Heshbon. (**Deuteronomy 3:2**)
- Accordingly Yehowah our God gave into our hand also Og the king of Bashan and all his people, and we kept striking him until

he had no survivor remaining. (**Deuteronomy 3:3**)

- And we went capturing all his cities at that particular time. There proved to be no town that we did not take from them, sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. (**Deuteronomy 3:4**)
- All these were cities fortified with a high wall, doors and bar, aside from very many rural towns. (**Deuteronomy 3:5**)
- However, we devoted them to destruction, just as we had done to Sihon the king of Heshbon, in devoting every city to destruction, men, women and little children. (**Deuteronomy 3:6**)
- And all the domestic animals and the spoil of the cities we took as plunder for ourselves. (**Deuteronomy 3:7**)
- The fall of these powerful **Amorite** kingdoms to Israel caused a sense of sickening dread to pervade Moab.
- And Balak the son of Zippor got to see all that Israel had done to the **Amorites**. (**Numbers 22:2**)
- And Moab became very frightened at the people, because they were many, and Moab began to feel a sickening dread of the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 22:3**)
- And Moab proceeded to say to the older men of Midian; Now this congregation will lick up all our surroundings like the bull licking up the green growth of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that particular time. (**Numbers 22:4**)
- And also the people of Canaan, as is revealed by Rahab's words to the Israelite spies.
- Get up, pull away and cross the torrent valley of Arnon. See, I have given into your hand Sihon the king of Heshbon, the **Amorite**. So start to take possession of his land, and engage in war with him. (**Deuteronomy 2:24**)
- This day I shall start to put the dread of you and the fear of you before the peoples beneath all the heavens, who will hear the report about you, and they will indeed be agitated and have pains like those of childbirth because of you. (**Deuteronomy 2:25**)

- And she went on to say to the men; I do know that Yehowah will certainly give you the land, and that the fright of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have become disheartened because of you. (**Joshua 2:9**)
- For we have heard how Yehowah dried up the waters of the Red Sea from before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the **Amorites** who were on the other side of the Jordan, namely, Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. (**Joshua 2:10**)
- When we got to hear it, then our hearts began to melt, and no spirit has arisen yet in anybody because of you, for Yehowah your God is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. (**Joshua 2:11**)
- The territory of the two defeated **Amorite** kings now became the inheritance of the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh.
- To this the sons of Gad and the sons of Reuben answered, saying, What Yehowah has spoken to your servants is the way we shall do. (**Numbers 32:31**)
- We ourselves will pass over equipped before Yehowah to the land of Canaan, and the possession of our inheritance will be with us on this side of the Jordan. (**Numbers 32:32**)
- At this Moses gave to them, that is, to the sons of Gad and to the sons of Reuben and to half the tribe of Manasseh the son of Joseph, the kingdom of Sihon the king of the **Amorites** and the kingdom of Og the king of Bashan, the land belonging to its cities in the territories, and the cities of the land round about. (**Numbers 32:33**)
- And the sons of Machir the son of Manasseh proceeded to march to Gilead and to capture it and to drive away the **Amorites** who were in it. (**Numbers 32:39**)
- And we proceeded to take at that particular time the land from the hand of the two kings of the **Amorites** who were in the region of the Jordan, from the torrent valley of Arnon as far as Mount Hermon. (**Deuteronomy 3:8**)

- The Sidonians used to call Hermon Sirion, and the **Amorites** used to call it Senir. (**Deuteronomy 3:9**)
- All the cities of the tableland and all Gilead and all Bashan as far as Salecah and Edrei, the cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. (**Deuteronomy 3:10**)
- For only Og the king of Bashan remained of what was left of the Rephaim. Look! His bier was a bier of iron. Is it not in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon? Nine cubits is its length, and four cubits its width, by the cubit of a man. (**Deuteronomy 3:11**)
- And we took possession of this land at that particular time, from Aroer, which is by the torrent valley of Arnon, and half of the mountainous region of Gilead, and its cities I have given to the Reubenites and the Gadites. (**Deuteronomy 3:12**)
- And the rest of Gilead and all Bashan of the kingdom of Og I have given to the half tribe of Manasseh. All the region of Argob of all Bashan, is it not called the land of the Rephaim? (**Deuteronomy 3:13**)

See Also SIHON

See Also OG

- As for the **Amorites** West of the Jordan, their hearts began to melt upon hearing of the Israelites miraculous crossing of the Jordan. This miracle, combined with the smashing victories Israel had already obtained, may explain, in part, why the **Amorites** made no attack upon the Israelite camp during the ensuing period in which the Israelite males were circumcised or while the Passover was celebrated.
- And it came about that as soon as all the kings of the **Amorites**, who were on the side of the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites, who were by the sea, heard that Yehowah had dried up the waters of the Jordan from before the sons of Israel until they had passed over, then their hearts began to melt, and there proved to be no spiritedness in them anymore because of the sons of Israel. (**Joshua 5:1**)
- At that particular time Yehowah said to Joshua; Make for yourself flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel again, the second time. (**Joshua 5:2**)

- And it came about that when they had completed circumcising all the nation, they kept sitting in their place in the camp until they revived. (**Joshua 5:8**)
- And the sons of Israel continued to camp in Gilgal, and they proceeded to carry out the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month, in the evening, on the desert plains of Jericho. (**Joshua 5:10**)
- However, after the destruction of Jericho and Ai, a massive alliance of the tribes of Canaan was formed to present a united front against Israel.
- And it came about that as soon as all the kings who were on the side of the Jordan in the mountainous region and in the Shephelah and along the whole coast of the Great Sea and in front of Lebanon, the Hittites and the **Amorites**, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, heard of it. (**Joshua 9:1**)
- They began to assemble themselves all together to make war against Joshua and Israel unanimously. (**Joshua 9:2**)
- When the Hivite men of Gibeon elected to seek peace with Israel, they were promptly attacked by five kings of the **Amorites** and escaped destruction only because of an all-night march by Joshua's forces and Yehowah's miraculous intervention.
- And it came about that as soon as Adonizedek the king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai and then devoted it to destruction, that just as he had done to Jericho and its king, so he had done to Ai and its king, and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were continuing in their midst. (**Joshua 10:1**)
- He became very much afraid, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty ones. (**Joshua 10:2**)
- Consequently Adoni-zedek the king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham the king of Hebron and to Piram the king of Jarmuth and to Japhia the king of Lachish and to Debir the king of Eglon, saying; (**Joshua 10:3**)

- Come up to me and help me and let us strike Gibeon, because it has made peace with Joshua and the sons of Israel. (**Joshua 10:4**)
- At this they gathered together and went on up, five kings of the **Amorites**, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, these and all their camps, and they proceeded to camp against Gibeon and to war against it. (**Joshua 10:5**)
- Upon that the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp at Gilgal, saying; Do not let your hand relax from your slaves. Come up to us quickly and do save us and help us, for all the kings of the **Amorites** inhabiting the mountainous region have collected together against us. (**Joshua 10:6**)
- So Joshua went on up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him and all the valiant mighty men. (**Joshua 10:7**)
- Then Yehowah said to Joshua; Do not be afraid of them, for into your hand I have given them. Not a man of them will stand against you. (**Joshua 10:8**)
- And Joshua proceeded to come against them by surprise. All night long he had gone up from Gilgal. (**Joshua 10:9**)
- And Yehowah went throwing them into confusion before Israel, and they began to slay them with a great slaughter at Gibeon and went pursuing them by way of the ascent of Bethhoron and slaying them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. (**Joshua 10:10**)
- And it came about that while they were fleeing from before Israel and were on the descent of Beth-horon, Yehowah hurled great stones from the heavens upon them as far as Azekah, so that they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword. (**Joshua 10:11**)
- It was then that Joshua proceeded to speak to Yehowah on the day of Yehowah's abandoning the **Amorites** to the sons of Israel, and he went on to say before the eyes of Israel; Sun, be motionless over Gibeon, and, moon, over the low plain of Aijalon. (**Joshua 10:12**)

- **Accordingly the sun kept motionless, and the moon did stand still, until the nation could take vengeance on its enemies. Is it not written in the book of Jashar? And the sun kept standing still in the middle of the heavens and did not hasten to set for about a whole day. (Joshua 10:13)**
- **And no day has proved to be like that one, either before it or after it, in that Yehowah listened to the voice of a man, for Yehowah himself was fighting for Israel. (Joshua 10:14)**
- **After that Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal. (Joshua 10:15)**
- **Meantime these five kings fled and went hiding themselves in the cave at Makkedah. (Joshua 10:16)**
- **Then the report was made to Joshua, saying; The five kings have been found hidden in the cave at Makkedah. (Joshua 10:17)**
- **At that Joshua said; Roll great stones up to the mouth of the cave and assign men over it to guard them. (Joshua 10:18)**
- **As for you men, do not stand still. Chase after your enemies, and you must strike them in the rear. Do not allow them to enter into their cities, for Yehowah your God has given them into your hands. (Joshua 10:19)**
- **And it came about that as soon as Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished slaying them with a very great slaughter, until these came to their end, and those who did survive of them escaped and went entering into the fortified cities. (Joshua 10:20)**
- **All the people then began to return to the camp, to Joshua, at Makkedah in peace. Not a man moved his tongue eagerly against the sons of Israel. (Joshua 10:21)**
- **Then Joshua said; Open the mouth of the cave and bring out these five kings from the cave to me. (Joshua 10:22)**
- **At that they did so and brought out to him from the cave these five kings, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon. (Joshua 10:23)**

- And it came about that as soon as they had brought out these kings to Joshua, Joshua proceeded to call all the men of Israel and to say to the commanders of the men of war that had gone with him; Come forward. Place your feet on the back of the necks of these kings. So they came forward and placed their feet on the back of their necks. (**Joshua 10:24**)
- And Joshua went on to say to them; Do not be afraid or be terrified. Be courageous and strong, for it is like this that Yehowah will do to all your enemies against whom you are warring. (**Joshua 10:25**)
- And after that Joshua proceeded to strike them and put them to death and hang them upon five stakes, and they continued hanging upon the stakes until the evening. (**Joshua 10:26**)
- And it came about that at the time of the setting of the sun Joshua commanded, and they went taking them down off the stakes and throwing them into the cave where they had hid themselves. Then they placed big stones at the mouth of the cave, until this very day. (**Joshua 10:27**)
- There proved to be no city that made peace with the sons of Israel but the Hivites inhabiting Gibeon. All the others they took by war. (**Joshua 11:19**)
- After this battle and after Joshua's succeeding campaign throughout the land, the power of the **Amorites** in the South of Palestine was evidently broken. Still, the **Amorites** in the northern regions joined with other tribes in an alliance that engaged Israel in battle at the waters of Merom. Disastrously overwhelmed, the **Amorites** are never again mentioned as constituting a major danger to Israel.
- And it came about that as soon as Jabin the king of Hazor heard of it, he went sending to Jobab the king of Madon and to the king of Shimron and the king of Achshaph. (**Joshua 11:1**)
- And to the kings that were to the north in the mountainous region and in the desert plains south of Chinnereth and in the Shephelah and on the mountain ridges of Dor to the west. (**Joshua 11:2**)
- The Canaanites to the east and the west, and the **Amorites** and

the Hittites and the Perizzites and the Jebusites in the mountainous region and the Hivites at the base of Hermon in the land of Mizpah. (**Joshua 11:3**)

- So they went out, they and all their camps with them, a people as numerous as the grains of sand that are on the seashore for multitude, and very many horses and war chariots. (**Joshua 11:4**)
- Then all these kings met together by appointment and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel. (**Joshua 11:5**)
- At this Yehowah said to Joshua; Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow about this time I am abandoning all of them slain to Israel. Their horses you will hamstring, and their chariots you will burn in the fire. (**Joshua 11:6**)
- And Joshua and all the people of war with him proceeded to come against them along the waters of Merom by surprise and to fall upon them. (**Joshua 11:7**)
- Then Yehowah gave them into Israel's hand, and they went striking them and pursuing them as far as populous Sidon and Misrephoth-maim and the valley plain of Mizpeh to the east, and they kept striking them until they had not let a survivor of theirs remain. (**Joshua 11:8**)
- After that Joshua did to them just as Yehowah had said to him, their horses he hamstrung, and their chariots he burned in the fire. (**Joshua 11:9**)
- A remnant remained, but their territory was greatly reduced, and in course of time they came into forced labor under Israelite domination.
- To the south all the land of the Canaanites, and Mearah, which belongs to the Sidonians, as far as Aphek, as far as the border of the **Amorites**. (**Joshua 13:4**)
- And the **Amorites** kept pressing the sons of Dan into the mountainous region, for they did not allow them to come down into the low plain. (**Judges 1:34**)
- So the **Amorites** persisted in dwelling in Mount Heres and in

- Aijalon and Shaalbim. But the hand of the house of Joseph got to be so heavy that they were forced into task work. ([Judges 1:35](#))
- And the territory of the **Amorites** was from the ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela upward. ([Judges 1:36](#))
 - **Amorite** women were taken as wives by Israelites, resulting in apostasy
 - And the sons of Israel dwelt in among the Canaanites, the Hittites and the **Amorites** and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ([Judges 3:5](#))
 - And they proceeded to take their daughters as wives for themselves, and their own daughters they gave to their sons, and they took up serving their gods. ([Judges 3:6](#))
 - And the **Amorites** generally seem to have continued to be troublesome for some time, for it is mentioned that in Samuel's day, after a decisive defeat of the Philistines, there came to be peace between Israel and the **Amorites**.
 - And the cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel kept coming back to Israel from Ekron to Gath, and the territory of them Israel delivered from the hand of the Philistines. And there came to be peace between Israel and the **Amorites**. ([1 Samuel 7:14](#))
 - **Amorites** were again among those put to forced labor during Solomon's reign.
 - As for all the people remaining over from the **Amorites**, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, who were no part of the sons of Israel. ([1 Kings 9:20](#))
 - Their sons who had been left over after them in the land whom the sons of Israel had been unable to devote to destruction, Solomon kept levying them for slavish forced labor until this day. ([1 Kings 9:21](#))
 - Their idolatry and wickedness, evidently representative of that of all the Canaanites, was proverbial.
 - And he went acting very detestably by going after the dungy

idols, the same as all that the **Amorites** had done, whom Yehowah drove out from before the sons of Israel. (**1 Kings 21:26**)

- For the reason that Manasseh the king of Judah has done these detestable things, he has acted more wickedly than all that the **Amorites** did that were prior to him, and he proceeded to make even Judah sin with his dungy idols. (**2 Kings 21:11**)
- The taking of **Amorite** wives still constituted a thorny problem among the returned Israelites after the Babylonian exile.
- And as soon as these things were finished, the princes approached me, saying; The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands as regards their detestable things, namely, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians and the **Amorites**. (**Ezra 9:1**)
- For they have accepted some of their daughters for themselves and for their sons, and they, the holy seed, have become mingled with the peoples of the lands, and the hand of the princes and the deputy rulers has proved to be foremost in this unfaithfulness. (**Ezra 9:2**)
- Eventually, however, the **Amorite** people, once the foremost one's of all Canaan, passed completely out of existence, like a tall, massive tree with its fruit removed and its roots destroyed.
- But as for me, I had annihilated the **Amorite** on account of them, whose height was like the height of cedars, and who was vigorous like the massive trees, and I went annihilating his fruitage above and his roots below. (**Amos 2:9**)
- And I myself brought you people up out of the land of Egypt, and I kept making you walk through the wilderness forty years, in order to take possession of the land of the **Amorite**. (**Amos 2:10**)

.. The Amurru

- Secular historians regularly associate the **Amorites** of the Bible with the people called the **Amurru** in early Akkadian or Assyro-Babylonian cuneiform texts. The **Amurru** are represented as invading

Mesopotamia early in the **Second Millennium B.C.E.** and as having had a kingdom in Babylonia for several centuries. Hammurabi, famed lawgiver of that period, is often referred to as of **Amorite** origin.

1· The evidence concerning the **Amurru**, however, does not appear to warrant the strong conclusions that are advanced as to their positive identification with the Biblical **Amorites**.

- **Amurru** in the ancient cuneiform texts basically meant west as referring to the region West of Mesopotamia. A. H. Sayce, in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, says that the name **Amurru** is a purely geographical indication of their immediate origins, from the perspective of Mesopotamia, and conveys no information about their ethnic composition or their real name. [Edited by G. W. Bromiley, 1979, Vol. 1, p. 113]

- While Mari, an ancient city on the Euphrates in northern Mesopotamia, is referred to by modern secular historians as a center of the expansion of the **Amurru** into Mesopotamia, the thousands of tablets recovered there were almost all in the Semitic Akkadian or Assyro-Babylonian language, with some names of West Semitic origin.

- As noted, however, the Biblical **Amorites** were Hamitic, not Semitic, and while the adoption of a Semitic tongue by some branch of them is not an impossibility, it is equally possible that the early **Amurru** were simply westerners from among the Semitic peoples living to the West of Babylonia.

- Professor John Bright in *A History of Israel* (1981, p. 49) says: For some centuries, of the late third millennium and early **Second Millennium B.C.E.** the people of northwestern Mesopotamia and northern Syria had been referred to in cuneiform texts as Amurru, i.e, Westerners.

- This became, apparently, a general term applying to speakers of various Northwest-Semitic dialects found in the area including, in all probability, those strains from which later sprang both Hebrews and Arameans.