

## Conquest of Canaan – Israel Defeats the Amorites Josh. 10:1-27

*Thesis: To show the seriousness of making a decision to follow God.*

### Introduction:

The Amorites are some of the most talked-about of all the nations that inhabited the Promised Land before Israel took possession of it. Their destination and history begin all the way back in Gen. 10.

### I. Retell the story.

- A. Adoni-Zedek and the five kings of the Amorites prepare to attack Gibeon for the treaty that they made with Israel (10:1-5).
- B. The men of Gibeon come to Joshua and beg for the help of Israel (10:6).
- C. Joshua, by the command of God, goes with Gibeon and defeats the five kings of the Amorites (10:7-11).
  1. Notice especially 10:10-11.
- D. Joshua pleads with the Lord for the sun to stand still so that they can complete the destruction of the Amorites (10:12-15).
- E. The Amorite kings are trapped in a cave at Makkedah and then killed by hanging by Joshua (10:16-27).

**Practical Application: The decisions that we make may affect our eternity.**

### II. Notice the history of the Amorites (especially the decisions they made concerning their relationship with God).

- A. The Amorites had always been cursed because of their ancestry.
  1. The Amorites come from the descendants of Ham.
    - a. **Gen. 9:22-25** (Remember what happened to Ham) - *And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. {23} But Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. {24} So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. {25} Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren."*
    - b. **Gen. 10:15-16** (The Amorites were from Canaan) - *Canaan begot Sidon his firstborn, and Heth; {16} the Jebusite, the Amorite, and the Girgashite;*

2. God promised Abraham to give his descendants the land of the Amorites.
  - a. **Gen. 15:13-16** - Then He said to Abram: “Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. {14} And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions. {15} Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age. {16} But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”
3. The Amorites were the ones that refused to allow Israel to pass through their land.
  - a. **Num. 21:21-26** - Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, {22} “Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into fields or vineyards; we will not drink water from wells; but we will go by the King’s Highway until we have passed through your territory.” {23} But Sihon would not allow Israel to pass through his territory. So Sihon gathered all his people together and went out against Israel in the wilderness, and he came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. {24} Then Israel defeated him with the edge of the sword, and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as the people of Ammon; for the border of the people of Ammon was fortified. {25} So Israel took all these cities, and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon and in all its villages. {26} For Heshbon was the city of Sihon king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and had taken all his land from his hand as far as the Arnon.
    - b. It is important to note that the Amorites apparently possessed land on both sides of the Jordan River and Dead Sea.
    - c. On this occasion, Israel only took possession of their land that was east of the Jordan.
    - d. It was not until **Josh. 10** that they destroy the five kings on the west side of the River.
- B. When Israel saw the Amorites for the first time, they were afraid of them.
  1. **Deut. 1:6-7** – Moses reminds Israel of the command to take the land, especially the land of the Amorites.
  2. **Deut. 1:19-33** – Israel refused to take the land when they saw the inhabitants of Canaan.
- C. You would think that with the history that the Amorites had with Israel, they would have learned to follow the God of Israel (or at least not to go against Him).

### III. The decisions that we make may have an impact on our eternity.

- A. The kings of the Amorites made a decision to fight against God.
  - 1. They had the same information that Gibeon had.
    - a. Josh. 9:1-2 – Gibeon made a treaty with Israel.
    - b. Josh. 10:1-2 – The Amorites fought against God.
  - 2. Even when the people thought that they had escaped, they were destroyed by the hailstones (10:11).
    - a. There was no way of escaping.
    - b. Because of their decisions, God was going to punish them.
  - 3. Their decisions made a great impact on their immediate life and their eternity.
- B. Today, we are faced with decisions that will impact our eternity.
  - 1. At the end of Joshua's life, he encourages Israel to make good decisions.
    - a. Josh. 24:15 - And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.
    - b. Joshua knew the eternal importance of making this decision.
  - 2. As Jesus depicts the judgment scene, the difference between those who were saved and those who were not was the decisions that they made.
    - a. Mt. 25:34-36 - Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {35} for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; {36} I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me."
  - 3. Today, the most important decision that we face is this: what will we do with Jesus?
    - a. Pilate was faced with this decision.
      - 1) He chose to release a murderer and condemn Jesus.
    - b. Lk. 9:23-26 - Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. {24} For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. {25} For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? {26} For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels."

### Conclusion: