

# GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE AMORITES

Bible Text: Genesis 15:13-16; Numbers 21:10-35; Joshua 24:12

LESSON 109 - SENIOR COURSE

**MEMORY VERSE: "For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favour unto them" (Psalm 44:3).**

## BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

### Genesis 15:13-16 (KJV)

<sup>13</sup> And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

<sup>14</sup> And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

<sup>15</sup> And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

<sup>16</sup> But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet full.

### Numbers 21:10-35 (KJV)

<sup>10</sup> And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in Oboth.

<sup>11</sup> And they journeyed from Oboth, and pitched at Ijeabarim, in the wilderness which *is* before Moab, toward the sunrising.

<sup>12</sup> From thence they removed, and pitched in the valley of Zared.

<sup>13</sup> From thence they removed, and pitched on the other side of Arnon, which *is* in the wilderness that cometh out of the coasts of the Amorites: for Arnon *is* the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites.

<sup>14</sup> Wherefore it is said in the book of the wars of the LORD, What he did in the Red sea, and in the brooks of Arnon,

<sup>15</sup> And at the stream of the brooks that goeth down to the dwelling of Ar, and lieth upon the border of Moab.

<sup>16</sup> And from thence *they went* to Beer: that *is* the well whereof the LORD spake unto Moses, Gather the people together, and I will give them water.

<sup>17</sup> Then Israel sang this song, Spring up, O well; sing ye unto it:

<sup>18</sup> The princes digged the well, the nobles of the people digged it, by *the direction* of the lawgiver, with their

## BIBLE REFERENCES:

### **I Strangers in a Strange Land**

1 The Lord tells Abram that his seed shall be a stranger in a strange land 400 years, Genesis 15:13;

#### **Acts 7:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> And God spake on this wise, That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat *them* evil four hundred years.

2 God will judge that nation, and Abram's seed will come out with great substance, Genesis 15:14;

#### **Exodus 6:6 (KJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I *am* the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

#### **Exodus 12:36 (KJV)**

<sup>36</sup> And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them *such things as they required*. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

#### **Deuteronomy 6:22 (KJV)**

<sup>22</sup> And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:

#### **Psalms 105:37 (KJV)**

<sup>37</sup> He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and *there was* not one feeble *person* among their tribes.

3 Abram will die in peace and his seed will inherit the promise in the fourth generation, when the iniquity of the Amorites is full, Genesis 15:16;

#### **1 Kings 21:26 (KJV)**

<sup>26</sup> And he did very abominably in following idols, according to all *things* as did the Amorites, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel.

#### **Daniel 8:23 (KJV)**

<sup>23</sup> And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up.

#### **Matthew 23:39 (KJV)**

<sup>39</sup> For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

### **II The Journeyings of Israel**

1 Israel journeys from Oboth to Beer, where the Lord gave them a well and Israel sang a song, Numbers 21:10-18;

#### **Exodus 15:1 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 They journey on to the border of the Amorites, Numbers 21:19-21

### **III The Request of Moses**

1 Moses asks to go along by the king's highway, through the land of the Amorites. They promise not to drink of the water or eat of the vineyards, Numbers 21:22;

#### **Numbers 20:17-21 (KJV)**

<sup>17</sup> Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's *high* way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders.

<sup>18</sup> And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword.

<sup>19</sup> And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without *doing* any thing *else*, go through on my feet.

<sup>20</sup> And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him

staves. And from the wilderness *they went* to Mattanah:

<sup>19</sup> And from Mattanah to Nahaliel: and from Nahaliel to Bamoth:

<sup>20</sup> And from Bamoth *in* the valley, that *is* in the country of Moab, to the top of Pisgah, which looketh toward Jeshimon.

<sup>21</sup> And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, saying,

<sup>22</sup> Let me pass through thy land: we will not turn into the fields, or into the vineyards; we will not drink *of* the waters of the well: *but* we will go along by the king's *high way*, until we be past thy borders.

<sup>23</sup> And Sihon would not suffer Israel to pass through his border: but Sihon gathered all his people together, and went out against Israel into the wilderness: and he came to Jahaz, and fought against Israel.

<sup>24</sup> And Israel smote him with the edge of the sword, and possessed his land from Arnon unto Jabbok, even unto the children of Ammon: for the border of the children of Ammon *was* strong.

<sup>25</sup> And Israel took all these cities: and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof.

<sup>26</sup> For Heshbon *was* the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab, and taken all his land out of his hand, even unto Arnon.

<sup>27</sup> Wherefore they that speak in proverbs say, Come into Heshbon, let the city of Sihon be built and prepared:

<sup>28</sup> For there is a fire gone out of Heshbon, a flame from the city of Sihon: it hath consumed Ar of Moab, *and* the lords of the high places of Arnon.

<sup>29</sup> Woe to thee, Moab! thou art undone, O people of Chemosh: he hath given his sons that escaped, and his daughters, into captivity unto Sihon king of the Amorites.

<sup>30</sup> We have shot at them; Heshbon is perished even unto Dibon, and we have laid them waste even unto Nophah, which *reacheth* unto Medeba.

<sup>31</sup> Thus Israel dwelt in the land of the Amorites.

<sup>32</sup> And Moses sent to spy out Jaazer, and they took the villages thereof, and drove out the Amorites that *were* there.

with much people, and with a strong hand.

<sup>21</sup> Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.

2 Sihon, king of the Amorites, refuses passage and makes war with Israel, Numbers 21:23;

**Deuteronomy 29:7 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> And when ye came unto this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, came out against us unto battle, and we smote them:

3 Israel smites Sihon and possesses his land from Arnon unto Jabbok, Numbers 21:24-26

4 Moses quotes a war song, Numbers 21:27, 30

5 Og, king of Bashan, fights against Israel; Israel smites him and possesses his land, Numbers 21:33-35

6 The Lord tells them they did not possess these lands by their own might, but He sent the hornet before them and drove the enemy out, Joshua 24:12;

**Exodus 23:28 (KJV)**

<sup>28</sup> And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee.

**Deuteronomy 7:20 (KJV)**

<sup>20</sup> Moreover the LORD thy God will send the hornet among them, until they that are left, and hide themselves from thee, be destroyed.

### **Notes:**

#### **God's Promise to Abraham**

In the opening of our lesson today we read that Abraham had just passed through one of his deepest experiences with the Lord. A sacrificial covenant had been made. The sacrifices had been divided, which was a custom in those days when a covenant was made between two parties. The animals were cut into equal parts down through the marrow bone; the halves were placed opposite each other. Then the contracting parties passed between the halves and there took the covenant oath.

In Jeremiah 34:18, 20, we read these words: "I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they cut the calf in twain, and passed between the parts thereof, ... I will even give them into the hand of their enemies."

The Lord promised Abraham that his seed should inherit that land. Abraham wanted an assurance that he would know that his seed would possess that land. It was then that the Lord told him to take those animals and make a sacrifice. We believe this deep consecration was Abraham's preparation for sanctification. Many people believe sanctification to be a progressive work; but when we make the consecration the Lord will let us know that our hearts are cleansed by the Blood, just as He let Abraham know.

A deep sleep and a horror of a great darkness fell upon Abraham, and the Lord revealed to him that his seed would be strangers in a land that was not theirs and they would be afflicted 400 years. No doubt, that "horror of great darkness" was to let Abraham know the terrible affliction that would befall the Children of Israel while they were in Egypt. The Lord said, "That nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge." More than 400 years later, God literally fulfilled that promise to Abraham when Moses led the Children of Israel out of Egypt with a high and mighty hand and those terrible plagues were rained down upon the Egyptians. Punishment always follows sin, and the Egyptians felt the released fury of God's judgment.

To comfort Abraham's heart after that horror of darkness, the Lord said to him, "Thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age" (verse 15).

#### **Iniquity of the Amorites**

The Amorites were a powerful tribe of the land of Canaan. It *seems* that

<sup>33</sup> And they turned and went up by the way of Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan went out against them, he, and all his people, to the battle at Edrei.

<sup>34</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Fear him not: for I have delivered him into thy hand, and all his people, and his land; and thou shalt do to him as thou didst unto Sihon king of the Amorites, which dwelt at Heshbon.

<sup>35</sup> So they smote him, and his sons, and all his people, until there was none left him alive: and they possessed his land.

### Joshua 24:12 (KJV)

<sup>12</sup> And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, *even* the two kings of the Amorites; *but* not with thy sword, nor with thy bow.

### QUESTIONS

- 1 What experience was God about to give Abraham?
- 2 What was the promise God made to Abraham?
- 3 How long was it before it was fulfilled?
- 4 Who dwelt in the land of Canaan at this time?
- 5 Why did not the Lord drive the Amorites out of the land at once?
- 6 What did Moses request of the king of the Amorites?
- 7 What answer did he receive?
- 8 What two kings and their countries were captured? 9 What is a war song?

all the nations in Canaan were sometimes classed as Amorites. They were a very idolatrous people, but the Lord was not ready in Abraham's time, to expel them from the land. Evidently there is a certain pitch of iniquity to which nations may arrive before they are destroyed, and 'beyond which divine justice does not permit them to pass. "There's a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord." Sinner, "How do you know but your soul may be drifting over the dead line tonight?"

The cup of iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full, but in the fourth generation the Lord said He would expel them. As God deals with nations so does He deal with individuals. "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" (Proverbs 29:1). "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil" (Ecclesiastes 8:11).

### The Request of Moses

When the Children of Israel reached the border of the land of the Amorites, Moses sent messengers to the king of the Amorites and requested permission to pass along the king's highway until they had passed through his borders. Moses promised that they would not drink of the Amorites' well nor eat the fruit of their vineyards or fields. But the king refused them passage, gathered his people together, and went out to fight against Israel. The cup of iniquity of the Amorites was now full; and, according to the promise the Lord made to Abraham, He commanded Israel to destroy them.

The devil has control of any of the nations of the world today. He would like to keep the children of God from passing along the King's Highway or even living in this old world. Isaiah had a glimpse of a spiritual highway where the redeemed of the Lord walk, which is called the Way of Holiness; no unclean thing shall pass over it; no lion or ravenous beast shall go up thereon (**Isaiah 35:8-9** <sup>8</sup> And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall *walk there*). No power of the devil can keep Christians from traveling on this highway.

According to the Bible, the cup of iniquity for this sinful world is almost full, and the prophecy in Revelation 14:18 will be fulfilled: "And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe."

"In the hand of the LORD there is a cup, ... the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them" (Psalm 75:8).

### A War Song

War songs seem to be as old as wars themselves. Leaders sang to encourage their soldiers to fight, and the conquerors sang their songs of triumph after the battle was over. Moses here inserts a song, the first part of which the Amorites had sung when they in the past had defeated the Moabites and had taken some of their land. Now Israel had captured it from the Amorites. With a tinge of irony, Moses adds another verse and says, "We have shot at them; Heshbon is perished even unto Dibon, and we have laid them waste even unto Nophah, which reacheth unto Medeba." Thus, after 400 years God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and the Amorites were destroyed.