

Joshua Chapter 12 Commentary

1 ¶ Now these *are* the kings of the land, which the children of Israel smote, and possessed their land on the other side Jordan toward the rising of the sun, from the river Arnon unto mount Hermon, and all the plain on the east: 2 ¶ Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt in Heshbon, *and* ruled from Aroer, which *is* upon the bank of the river Arnon, and from the middle of the river, and from half Gilead, even unto the river Jabbok, *which is* the border of the children of Ammon; 3 And from the plain to the sea of Chinneroth on the east, and unto the sea of the plain, *even* the salt sea on the east, the way to Bethjeshimoth; and from the south, under Ashdothpisgah: 4 ¶ And the coast of Og king of Bashan, *which was* of the remnant of the giants, that dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei, 5 And reigned in mount Hermon, and in Salcah, and in all Bashan, unto the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and half Gilead, the border of Sihon king of Heshbon. 6 ¶ Them did Moses the servant of the LORD and the children of Israel smite: and Moses the servant of the LORD gave it *for* a possession unto the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh.

In verses 1-6, we have a recounting, of the territory on the east side of Jordan river, which God delivered into the hands of Moses and Israel, and the description of its boundaries. Do not forget; Moses gave this land for a possession, which eventually will be a detriment to Israel. God's planned purpose was for them all to be in the land of promise.

7 ¶ And these *are* the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel smote on this side Jordan on the west, from Baalgad in the valley of Lebanon even unto the mount Halak, that goeth up to Seir; which Joshua gave unto the tribes of Israel *for* a possession according to their divisions; 8 In the mountains, and in the valleys, and in the plains, and in the springs, and in the wilderness, and in the south country; the Hittites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: 9 The king of Jericho, one; the king of Ai, which is beside Bethel, one; 10 The king of Jerusalem, one; the king of Hebron, one; 11 The king of Jarmuth, one; the king of Lachish, one; 12 The king of Eglon, one; the king of Gezer, one; 13 The king of Debir, one; the king of Geder, one; 14 The king of Hormah, one; the king of Arad, one; 15 The king of Libnah, one; the king of Adullam, one;

Adullam is the place where there are caves. David fled to the cave of Adullam when he fled from serving Saul for fear of his life. There his family will come to him, and there God moved men to join to him as soldiers under his command, seen in: ***1Sa 22:1-2; 1 "David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him. 2 ¶ And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men."***

16 The king of Makedah, one; the king of Bethel, one; 17 The king of Tappuah, one; the king of Hepher, one; 18 The king of Aphek, one; the king of Lasharon, one; 19 The king of Madon, one; the king of Hazor, one; 20 The king of Shimronmeron, one; the king of Achshaph, one; 21 The king of Taanach, one; the king of Megiddo, one; 22 The king of Kedesh, one; the king of Jokneam of Carmel, one; 23 The king of Dor in the coast of Dor, one; the king of the nations of Gilgal, one; 24 The king of Tirzah, one: all the kings thirty and one.

In verses 7-24, we have a list of the kings killed, and the territories taken by Joshua and Israel. This is an affirmation that God will do what he says he will do. In the next chapter we shall see listed the territories that are yet to be conquered. It being hard to discern from the available maps; I am guessing about half of the land of promise remains to be conquered. It seems they have taken a lot.

When you study the available maps, you find; most of these kings were rulers over one city and the land around it. They were not like the Pharaohs of Egypt who ruled over vast territories. Some of these kings may have been subordinate to another king, as we have seen in previous chapters.

*Matthew Henry's Commentary: The several nations that had been in possession of this country--Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, &c., all of them descended from Canaan, the accursed son of Ham, **Ge 10:15-18; 15 ¶ "And Canaan begat Sidon his firstborn, and Heth, 16 And the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgashite, 17 And the Hivite, and the Arkite, and the Sinite, 18 And the Arvadite, and the Zemarite, and the Hamathite: and afterward were the families of the Canaanites spread abroad."** Seven nations they are called in **De 7:1 ¶ "When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;"** and so many are there reckoned up, but here six only are mentioned, the Girgashites being either lost or left out, though we find them, **Ge 10:16 "And the Jebusite, and the Amorite, and the Girgashite,"** and **Ge 15:21 "And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."** Either they were incorporated with some other of these nations, or, as the tradition of the Jews is, upon the approach of Israel under Joshua they all withdrew and went into Africa, leaving their country to be possessed by Israel, with whom they saw it was to no purpose to contend, and therefore they are not named among the nations that Joshua subdued.*

From Matthew Henry's commentary, we are brought to remembrance of something I often forget; the occupants of the land of promise are descendants of, and share some of the same family names, through which God's blessed and chosen people have in their ancestry. Scripture teaches us that Ham, the son of Noah, was accursed, **Ge 9:20-25; 20 "And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: 21 And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. 22 And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. 23 And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. 24 ¶ And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. 25 And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren."** Seeing that the occupants, of the land of promise, are an accursed people; we should not wonder that God is having them to be utterly destroyed. Remember, God expressed that the iniquities of the Amorite would grow until they reached the level that he will destroy them, seen in: **Ge 15:16 "But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full."**

A practical lesson I can see in this chapter is, like Israel, when we enter the land of promise, the church, and begin our warfare against the enemies of the Lord, we have a long and enduring time of war. However, if we are faithful to follow God's leading and instruction, our enemies are already driven out of our land of promise, the church. We have the full assurance of God's Holy Presence with us, in

our daily struggles of life. Praise the Lord, we know the final victory is ours, through Christ Jesus, but the number of battles and the number of years we shall be fighting are in the hands of the Lord.

God, alone, knows the number of our days upon the earth. God knows when our days are completed our warfare will be accomplished in time. God, alone, knows when the end of time will be and when the final warfare will be ended. Wherefore, let us arise each day with thanksgiving; put on the whole armor of God; and fight the good fight of faith in the name of the Lord. "***Come Lord Jesus, come quickly.***" Amen!