

# *Journey Through The Cities Of Refuge*

Lesson #31

Power of Amorite Spirit

Aug. 26, 2026

Num. 33:55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain *shall be* irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.

These evil spirits are workers of our flesh who represent a dangerous or ungodly area of living.

- Weakness in us that must be conquered & eliminated
- Like parasites: they desire to attach themselves to you & destroy your life

Key: Satan will use these anti-god spirits to STOP the abundant life in you.

Rob you of your inheritance

The land of the Amorites was the children of Israel's entry point into the Promised Land. Once they experienced victory in the initial conquering of the nations [Jericho & Ai] in the land, they would face more battles with the Amorites living in the Promised Land. The Amorites, first mentioned in Gen. 10:16, were one of the descendants of Canaan. Amorites are found 73 times in the KJV and the name Amorite another 14 times.

Amorites were known for their great height, strength, & the abundance of their fruit-bearing trees.

In Amos 2:9, God said they were as tall as cedars and as strong as oaks.

Amorite = mountain people; renowned; high and mighty; highlander

- Occupied mountainous terrain of the land
- Fearsome warriors and military prowess
- Built strongholds in the high places
- Tall & impressive land masses that dominate over valleys
- Spirit of self-exaltation

Their physical strength became symbolic of spiritual challenges faced by Israel.

- They represented spiritual opposition and challenges to God's plans.
- They fiercely resisted the advancement of God's covenant people.
- They are symbols of pride, arrogance and opposition to God's will.

The Amorite spirit is depicted as a formidable and opposing force in the path of believers.

- It embodies qualities that believers must strive to overcome in their spiritual path.
- It is characterized by pride, arrogance, and antagonism towards spiritual progress.
- Control and manipulate others by their boastful words, actions or attitudes.
- It tends to establish an imposing and seemingly immovable presence.
- Desire for power and recognition
- Elevate their voice above the voice of God

The Bible uses the term "Amorite" symbolically for pride and rebellion against God.

- The Amorites' influence is seen as a corrupting force that could lead the Israelites away from their covenant with God.

Ezekiel 16:3 Jerusalem is metaphorically described as having an Amorite father, symbolizing the city's spiritual adultery and departure from God:

"This is what the Lord GOD says to Jerusalem: 'Your origin and your birth were in the land of the Canaanites. Your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite.'"

Amorite comes from another Hebrew word, *amar*, which means,

- to utter, to say, to speak against someone and to boast of self.
- To speak in order to cast down; to murmur against; say something in a wrong spirit
- This wicked strong spirit is the source of all murmuring and complaining.

Prov. 8:13 All who fear the Lord will hate Evil.

Therefore, I hate Pride and Arrogance, Corruption and Perverse Speech.

These 4 were manifested in Satan. Started with pride and arrogance in the heart which led to evil actions, evil words and perverse speech contrary to God's truth and love.

Pride, the root of all sin, is considered a form of evil. It can manifest in perverse speech, as both are linked to a lack of humility and can lead to harmful actions and words.

Pride rarely arrives with horns and a pitchfork. It's often dressed in confidence, cloaked in good intentions or disguised as religious zeal. But it bites deep—and hard.

1. Self-Reliance      Self-Sufficiency      Independence

- Instead of depending on God, we trust our own abilities, experience, and understanding.

2. Resistance To Correction      Unteachable

- Pride resists instruction because it believes it already knows.

3. Desire For Recognition      Fame-seeker of human glory & greatness

- The flesh seeks honor from men rather than glory for God.

4. Control      I am safe if I am in control.

- Pride struggles to surrender outcomes to God.

Pride isn't just a character flaw. It's a spiritual toxin.

Pride always puts itself first, pushes others down, and postures against heaven.

It can cost:

- Walls in relationships: Pride refuses to say, "I was wrong."
- Deafness to God: Pride assumes God should agree with us.
- Spiritual stagnation: Pride doesn't grow; it digs in.
- Loss of grace: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." [James 4:6]

Pride is the only sin that God promises to personally oppose.

- That's not a team you want to play against.

The Amorite spirit is alive and well.

- Boastful speech: The need to be impressive, noticeable, or validated.
- Unteachable spirit: Resistance to correction or authority.
- Comparison culture: Needing to be "better than" someone else to feel valuable.
- Performance Christianity: Doing good things for recognition, not for God.

Steadman: It often looks good on the outside. But like a termite-infested house, pride weakens us from within. It keeps us from asking for help, makes us resistant to repentance and pushes God to the margins—while we take the center.

Of all the "ites" in our spiritual lives, few are as sneaky and socially acceptable as this one. Before we can fully possess our inheritance, the Amorite stronghold must be brought low.

Arrogance: Want their name mentioned; boosters; arrogant and boastful in their speech

- Wisdom rejects the self-exaltation that refuses God's authority.

Corruption: God's wisdom opposes deeds that violate His commands, including injustice, idolatry, immorality, and oppression. A wise life displays obedience in conduct as well as belief.

Perverse Speech: refers to language that is corrupt, deceitful, or morally twisted. It involves twisted or distorted speech; words that deviate from truth, integrity, and edification.

Lying & Deception: Deliberately falsifying information Prov. 12:22

Slander & Gossip: Speaking negatively about others without edifying purpose Prov. 16:28

Profanity & Vulgar Talk: Using words that undermine reverence and respect Eph. 5:4

Blasphemy or Irreverent Speech: Directly dishonoring God Lev. 24:15-16

The Amorite spirit is a powerful perverse spirit that destroys through Our speech.

Blackaby: God's commands are designed to guide you to life's very best.

According to Biblical context, a perverse mouth is rooted in a heart attitude that resists truth and godliness, allowing harmful, dishonest, or disrespectful words to flow.

God's Word gives strong warnings against perverse or corrupt speech.

Prov.4:24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put perverse [devious] lips far from you.

Froward; deceitful =6143. Iqqeshuth: The term refers to moral and verbal crookedness—behavior or speech that bends away from uprightness.

Perverse; devious =3891=Lazuth: Deviation; crookedness; speech that deviates from the straight path of truth; Crooked speech is linked to a crooked heart.

Proverbs 17:20 He who has a deceitful heart finds no good,

And he who has a perverse [rebellious] tongue falls into evil. [NKJV]

Prov. 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,

And those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.

Biblical Examples and Warnings: Negative Example: The Wicked and Foolish  
Proverbs 6:12-14 portrays "a worthless person" who uses corrupt speech and divisive talk,  
warning that calamity awaits such behavior.

The emphasis is on how repeated perverse speech accelerates moral decline.

Positive Example: The Righteous and Wise

Psalm 37:30 "The mouth of the righteous man utters wisdom." When aligned with godly wisdom,  
speech becomes a tool for encouragement, correction in love, and truth that edifies others.

Paul's Letter to the Church:

Eph 4:29 "Let no evil talk come out of your mouth, but only such as is good for edifying,  
as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear."

Eph. 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things,  
which is the head, even Christ:

Key: Our speech should align with truth and godliness,  
steering clear of twisted or deceptive words.

How Can This Spirit Manifest Itself In A Believer?

The Amorite spirit is described as a domineering, deceitful force that manifests through  
boastful speech, a craving for public recognition, and a tendency to intimidate others to gain  
control. It can also appear as outward piety that lacks genuine spiritual fruit, such as quoting  
scripture without living it.

The Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14 demonstrates this spirit by boasting about his righteousness and  
looking down on others, reflecting the domineering nature associated with the Amorite spirit.

### *Amorite Spirit: A Talker: Words Without Action*

Pilgrim's Progress: Christian and Faithful met Talkative on their journey to the Celestial City.  
John Bunyan writes of Talkative: 'He was a tall man and somewhat better looking at a distance  
than close up.' Someone who has all the right words, and when you meet them you think 'wow,  
that person is spiritual!' But a close-up inspection of their life shows it to largely be a facade.  
They can talk the walk but are somewhat lacking walking the talk!

It is the very principle that Jesus warned His disciples against.

Matt. 23:3 Therefore whatever they tell you to observe that observe and do,  
but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

I Tim. 1:3-4 When I left for Macedonia, I urged you to stay there in Ephesus and  
stop those whose teaching is contrary to the truth. <sup>4</sup> Don't let them waste their time in endless  
discussion of myths and spiritual pedigrees. These things only lead to meaningless speculations,  
which don't help people live a life of faith in God. [NLT]

I Tim. 1:5-6 The goal of this command [to confront and correct false doctrine] is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

Consider: There are many Christians who believe that love means accepting anything and everything from those who profess to be a Christian.

- Some say, You should not be divisive over doctrine.
- It is unloving and judgmental to point out the error.

What is the result when bad doctrine is unchallenged?

<sup>6</sup>Some individuals have wandered away from these things into empty arguments *and* useless discussions, [idle talk and speculation about Scripture]

### Perverse Speech - BOASTING

The word Amorite can also mean to "boast of self." Boasting is self-glorification.

Jeremiah 9:23 This is what the LORD says: "Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches.

Truth: Satan hates humility, because he is filled with pride.

He wants all men to be proud and independent of God.

- You are it. Go for it. Be confident. Show them. Claim your rights.
- The opposite of humility. Jesus says to take His yoke and be like Him - humble.

Jesus set the pattern in Phil. 2:5,7-9. <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,...

<sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.

If you've been strutting in your heart—or hiding pride in religious polish—it's time to pull down the high place. Step off the pedestal. Confess the ego. Let God lift you up instead.

Because when pride bites, grace backs away. But when you kneel low, God draws near.

Pilgrim's Progress: Faithful makes another interesting comment about understanding and words without action [Talkative; Spirit of the Amorites]... 'Faithful then said,

"This reminds me of the words of Moses when he described the animal that is ceremonially clean. It is the animal that has a split hoof and chews its cud,

not the one that has a split hoof only, or the one that only chews its cud.

The rabbit chews its cud but it's still unclean because it doesn't have a split hoof.

This resembles Talkative. "He chews the cud - that is, he seeks knowledge and chews on the word - but he doesn't have a separated hoof; he doesn't separate himself from the way of sinners. Like the rabbit, he retains the foot of a dog or bear, and so he's unclean."

All knowledge and speech are but a clanging bell if you do not have love.

- Beware of allowing the Amorites to settle and live in your life!

### Perverse Speech - Curses, Slander, Swearing, Slang, Criticism, Gossip

Characteristic of the Amorite Spirit: Using your tongues to fight, argue and sling fierce words.

Psalm 64:3 They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim their bitter words like arrows. NLT

There is an evil defiling spirit, whose purpose is to inflame the tongue of man.

Behind all the jesting, insinuation, lying and double-talking lies a power of darkness.

Its purpose is to render language meaningless, to break down wholesome speech and to substitute the language of hell.

Most bad language degrades the Creator and the human body created by God.

The Amorite spirit is behind the swearing which is hatred of God -Matt. 12:22 -32.

- They brought a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute to Jesus.
- Jesus healed him so that he could both speak & see.
- All the multitudes were amazed & said, "could this be the son of David?"
- This *fellow* does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons.
- The Pharisees attributed the work of the Holy Spirit to Satan.

Criticism and gossip are also influenced by the Amorite spirit. Envy and jealousy in the heart can motivate one to run another person down. Often it is designed to defend the fragile character of the speaker. If a man can run another person down, then he feels superior to that person.

What about slang? Many slang expressions are simply modified swear words.

They are acceptable to those who would never dream of using the real **thing**.

### Evil Perverse Speech - Grumble, Murmur, Speak Against

God hates a person who stirs up trouble; sows discord among the brethren. [Prov. 6:19]

In Num. 12:1-16, when Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses, "God heard it." Judgment came.

- They spoke because of envy and pride out of the context of love.
- They may have spoken the truth concerning Moses. He should not have married a Cushite woman, but their motive for speaking it was wrong.

Notice what happens when you speak evil against God's anointed and God's appointed leaders.

Num. 12:9 The Lord departed.

Num. 12:10 The glory [cloud] departed. God will not stay in a place of criticism.

Miriam is stricken with leprosy.

Num. 12:15 The congregation stood still... they went nowhere.

This perverse spirit creates a breach between brethren, and the Amorite spirit walks in.

This spirit desired Joshua and his people to fight against one another. Joshua warned Israel that perverse speech is an enemy to possessing the land. The tongue must be under control.

## Consequences of a Perverse Mouth

1. Relational Fallout: Friendships, family ties, and community trust are eroded by deceitful or hurtful words. [Prov. 16:27-28]
2. Spiritual Impact: Perverse talk drives a wedge in one's relationship with God because it signifies a rebellion in the heart [Psalm 66:18].
3. Societal Disharmony: Cultures that ignore integrity in speech often experience moral unraveling and confusion [Isaiah 59:14].

Prov. 10:31-32 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom,  
but a perverse tongue will be cut out.

The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked is perverse.  
Shall be cut out: See Christ's warning: Sins of tongue will be judged severely.

Signs of an evil mind within.

Jesus was addressing the Amorite spirit, which was attacking the people of His day.

Jesus also emphasized the importance of speech and words when He said:

Matt. 12:36-37 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak,  
they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

For by your words, you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Idle: #692 argos describe that which is lazy, ineffective, or fruitless—literally "without work."

In Scripture it depicts persons, speech, and even faith  
that fail to accomplish their God-given purpose.

Idleness is more than a lack of activity. It is a deviation from the created mandate to work.  
[Gen. 2:15] and bear fruit [John 15:8].

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

It therefore functions theologically to expose hearts disengaged from God's purposes.

Whether manifested in speech, faith, or lifestyle,

idleness signals a rupture between confession and practice. [Not walking the talk]

Fruitfulness versus Idleness Scripture regularly contrasts fruit and effectiveness.

The believer is summoned to move from idleness to energy;

working out salvation through Spirit-empowered activity that glorifies God. [Phil. 2:12-13]

Paul couples the phrase "with fear and trembling" five times [I Cor. 2:3; II Cor. 7:15; Eph. 6:5]

It denotes a deep-seated seriousness before God, never craven terror

but sober recognition of His majesty and our accountability. [I John 4:18]

Strong's 692 warns that idleness—whether of mouth, mind, or hands—contradicts the Gospel's call to fruitful stewardship. God's redemptive plan converts the idle into productive laborers in His vineyard, assuring that "your labor in the Lord is not in vain" [I Cor. 15:58].

### Eternal Accountability II Cor. 5:9-10

Therefore, we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.  
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

- The apostle's ultimate horizon is the judgment seat of Christ. Ambition thus becomes eschatological: present choices take their weight from future evaluation.

With the judgment seat in view, believers labor not for fleeting applause but for the "crown of righteousness" [II Timothy 4:8].

Barnes: Every individual shall take, receive, or bear away the appropriate reward for the transactions of this life of probation;

Every man shall receive an appropriate reward for the actions of this life

Jer.17:9-10 "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked;

Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart;

Scripture calls every reader to honesty, diligence, and reverent awe before the God who "searches the heart" and promises to reward or reprove accordingly.

Rev. 2:23 ...All the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.  
And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

Ps.139:1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit and when I rise;  
You understand my thoughts from afar.

You comprehend my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

Ps. 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties  
And see if *there is any* wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

The Amorites were known for their great height, strength, and the abundance of their fruit-bearing trees. However, despite their power and resources, God ultimately destroyed them, uprooting their very roots from the earth.

Amos 2:9 But as my people watched, I [God] destroyed the Amorites,  
though they were as tall as cedars and as strong as oaks.  
I destroyed the fruit on their branches and dug out their roots.

Under King Solomon, the Amorites' story shifts from one of power to one of servitude.  
The remaining Amorites were put to work as judgment against them. [I Kings 9:20-21]

The Scriptures teach: Speech was created by God for the purpose of glorifying God and speaking creatively.

Matt. 12:34 for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

- If the heart meditates on bitterness, pride, or cruelty, the mouth will reflect these traits.
- If the heart is transformed by grace and filled with love, humility, and reverence, the mouth will reflect those qualities instead.

Genuine transformation of speech is linked to the transformation of the inner person.

- IF the Holy Spirit dwells within your heart, you will obey God's commands in:

Psalms 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart,  
be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

Psalms 141:3 Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.  
Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil.

- Reflects the need for divine assistance in maintaining pure and righteous communication.

Col. 4:6 *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt,*  
that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Encourages believers to cultivate speech that is both gracious and wise,  
serving as a testament to their faith and character.

The Bible presents perverse speech as a significant spiritual danger,  
urging believers to pursue purity in their words as a reflection of a transformed heart.

Our speech is evidence of our inner spiritual reality.

Have my mouth and my speech been made a bond-servant to Jesus Christ?

Do I have a "circumcised heart," a heart energized by the Holy Spirit?

Job 13:9 Will it be well when He searches you out? Examines my heart?

- Were my motives right or wicked?
  - Will it be a disappointing discovery or will it be well with me?