Gen 15:16 The Iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full

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Introduction

What's the deal with the Amorites? In Genesis 15, we have the famous "covenant of the pieces" between YHVH and Abram (which I discuss here Gen-15-Covenant-of-the-Pieces, Article #919). I argue this is a pivotal chapter to understand our relationship with YHVH. What's being described is, essentially, a trust, of which only Abram's seed will inherit. This will occur only after his dead [Gen 15:15] and his ancestors will go down to Egypt a land of affliction for 400 years [Gen 15:13], as beneficiaries, will return with great substance [Gen 15:14]. But then it says in verse [Gen 15:16] it says…

   "But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet full"

I feel like John Cleese "the plumage don't enter into it!" [a]. Who are these bloody Amorites and why are they keeping my ancestors from receiving their inheritance.

Let's follow the hermeneutical rule of "context is King"

Gen 14:12-13 - "Mamre" the Amorite confederates with Abram to rescue Lot

12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed. **13** And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite [H567], brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these *were* <mark>confederate</mark> (*ba'al* [H1167] *BeRiYTh* [H1285]) [b] with Abram.

Because of his nephew Lot, who I assume isn't the brightest spiritual knife in the drawer, got himself in a pickle and uncle Abe feels compelled to get him out of this jam.

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[a] Monty Python – Dead Parrot Sketch

[b] "**confederate**" is only used twice when translating *brit*.   KJC: 285; **covenant 265**, league 17, **confederate** 2, confederacy.
Possibly see "Word-Study-brit-H1285-covenant-comes-from-bara-H1254-created"; "Word-Study-H3772-karath-cut-made-covenant-confederate-league-loose-freed"

Gen 14:23-24 – Abram wants to not be beholding to his confederates

23 That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that *is* thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich: **24** Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

Conclusion

Gen 15:16-21 - The Iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full

16 But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: <mark>for the iniquity of the Amorites *is* not yet full</mark>. **17** And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. **18** In the same day YHVH made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: **19** The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, **20** And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, **21** And the <mark>Amorites</mark>, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.

What's the connection? If you accept that context is king then you must conclude that Abram's previous relationship, by *brit*/confederacy/covenant, has an impact on this, seemingly "out of left field" prophecy about Israel going down to Israel and will not return until "the iniquity of the Amorites is full". Before I started to right this article, my thought on this was that the Amorites were one of the Canaanites who were to be displaced, but YHVH had a special relationship with them and wanted to give them the opportunity to do the right thing.

I didn't think it had anything to do with Abram, but now I think differently (because of "there is no idle word in the Torah").

I can't help but think that Abram made a mistake with Lot. Maybe not so much in rescuing him, but having him tag along when they left the Ur of Chaldees in the first place. I say this because having Israel go down and become ensconced with the Egyptian way of life was a terrible thing to happen and became self evident when they tried to enter the promised land (I'm thinking of the Evil Report).

I don't have as definitive answer to the question I posed, but feel comfortable is asking the right question and the direction I'm taking as I seek the answers is correct.

Word Study

H567 *amori* KJC[87] Amorite(s) [87]

אמרי

Strong's Probably a patronymic from an unused name derived from H559 in the sense of *publicity*, that is, prominence; thus a *mountaineer*; an *Emorite*, one of the Canaanitish tribes: - Amorite.

Total KJV Occurrences: 87

amorites, 73 Gen_14:7, Gen_15:16, Gen_15:21, Exo_3:8, Exo_3:17, Exo_13:5, Exo_23:23, Num_13:29, Num_21:13 (2), Num_21:21, Num_21:25-26 (2), Num_21:29, Num_21:31-32 (2), Num_21:34, Num_22:2, Num_32:33, Deu_1:4, Deu_1:7, Deu_1:19-20 (2), Deu_1:27, Deu_1:44, Deu_3:2, Deu_3:8-9 (2), Deu_4:46-

47 (2), Deu_7:1, Deu_20:17, Deu_31:4, Jos_3:10 (2), Jos_5:1, Jos_7:7, Jos_9:10, Jos_10:5-6 (2), Jos_10:12, Jos_12:2, Jos_12:8, Jos_13:4, Jos_13:10, Jos_13:21, Jos_24:8, Jos_24:11-12 (2), Jos_24:15, Jos_24:18, Jdg_1:34-36 (3), Jdg_3:5, Jdg_6:10, Jdg_10:8, Jdg_10:11, Jdg_11:19, Jdg_11:21-23 (3), 1Sa_7:14, 2Sa_21:2, 1Ki_9:19-20 (2), 1Ki_21:26, 2Ki_21:11, 2Ch_8:7, Ezr_9:1, Neh_9:8, Psa_135:11, Psa_136:19

amorite, 14 Gen_10:16, Gen_14:13, Gen_48:22, Exo_33:2, Exo_34:11, Num_32:39, Deu_2:24, Jos_9:1, Jos_11:3, 1Ch_1:14, Eze_16:3, Eze_16:45, Amo_2:9-10 (2)

H559 *amar* KJC[5307], said[2776]

אמר

A primitive root; to *say* (used with great latitude): - answer, appoint, avouch, bid, boast self, call, certify, challenge, charge, + (at the, give) command (ment), commune, consider, declare, demand, X desire, determine, X expressly, X indeed, X intend, name, X plainly, promise, publish, report, require, say, speak (against, of), X still, X suppose, talk, tell, term, X that is, X think, use [speech], utter, X verily, X yet.

LXX related word(s) a lot

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