

Finishing Well

Lesson #27 Enemies That War in My Soul - Iniquity Of The Amorites July 28, 2021

It was a turning point for the nation of Israel when the older generation was gone. With their time of divine discipline ended, Israel could now look forward to defeating their enemies and moving into their Promised Land.

Deuteronomy 2-3 tell of the journey upon leaving Kadesh-Barnea.

Deut. 2:3 "You have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward."

Moses: Put your trust in God and march to capture the land on the eastern side of the Jordan River. God's Instructions:

Deut. 2:4-5 You are going to pass through the territory of your brothers the sons of Esau, who live in Seir; and they will be afraid of you. So be very careful; do not provoke them, for I will not give you any of their land, not even as much as a footprint, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a possession.

Deut. 2:9 Then the LORD said to me, 'Do not attack Moab, nor provoke them to war, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the sons of Lot as a possession.'

Deut. 2:19 When you come opposite the sons of Ammon, do not attack them nor provoke them, for I will not give you any of the land of the sons of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot as a possession.'

It took ~20 months to go from Kadesh to the Jordan River across from Jericho. Why? Israel was smitten with delays:

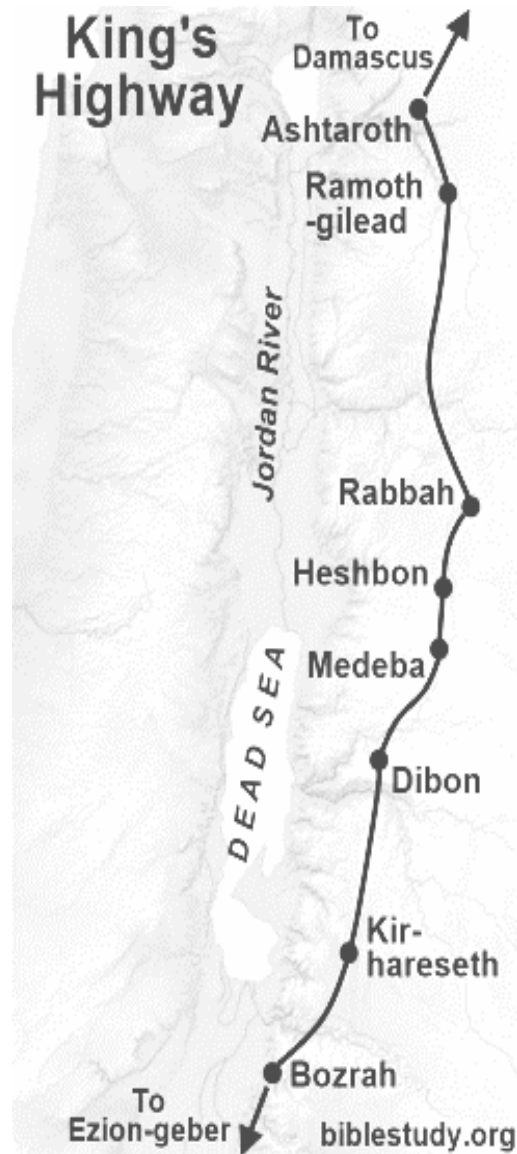
1. Edom [descendants of Esau], an enemy, refused direct passage through their land.

Num. 20:14-18 Now Moses sent messengers from Kadesh to the king of Edom. "Thus says your brother Israel: 'You know all the hardship that has befallen us, ¹⁵ how our fathers went down to Egypt, and we dwelt in Egypt a long time, and the Egyptians afflicted us and our fathers. ¹⁶ When we cried out to the LORD, He heard our voice and sent the Angel and brought us up out of Egypt; now here we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your border. ¹⁷ Please let us pass through your country. We will not pass through fields or vineyards, nor will we drink water from wells; we will go along the King's Highway; [^{1st} mention] we will not turn aside to the right hand or to the left until we have passed through your territory.' Then Edom said to him, "You shall not pass through my *land*, lest I come out against you with the sword."

This request takes place at the end of Moses' life. The Edomites terse refusal of Moses' request, and threat of war, forced God's people to travel a much longer route [Num. 20:18 - 21].

Num. 20:21-22 Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him. ²² And the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh, and came unto mount Hor.

- Aaron dies > spend 30 days mourning



The most important north-south Biblical trading route that existed east of the Jordan River & the Dead Sea.

An ancient trade & military route that began in the north at Damascus. Served as a vital commercial & military route from before the time of Abraham through the reigns of David, Solomon and beyond.

Solomon utilized the King's Highway & this port, Israel's only access to the Red Sea and beyond, as a means to funnel tremendous wealth into his kingdom.

[I Kings 9:26-28; 10:11, 22; II Chron. 8:17]

The 1st War Chedorlaomer, King of Elam, was angered that the rulers of Sodom & Gomorrah rebelled against him. He led a military coalition that plundered and subjugated several peoples along the King's Highway. [Gen. 14:1-2, 4-5]. His campaign, the first war in the Bible, began with overcoming the giant warriors living in Ashtaroth [Gen. 14:5]. He then destroyed the Zuzims, Emims and Horites as he journeyed south to El-paran near Ezion-geber.

2. The Moabites hired Balaam to curse Israel. He instructed them to use their women to seduce the Israelite men. The Israelites mingled with the pagan women and joined in the worship of Baal of Peor. Due to this idolatry, God killed 24,000 Jews. [new gen.]

In Gen 15:16 God told Abraham that: "the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." They were an iniquitous people but their sin was not yet at a level that God would sanction their destruction. 400 years passed. God is long-suffering and patient, waiting for repentance, but Nahum 3:19 confirms that there comes a time when His wrath boils over and the wound is too deep to heal.

*There is no relief for your collapse, Your wound is incurable.
All who hear news of you will clap their hands over you,
For upon whom has your wickedness not come continually?*

The first major antediluvian battle between Godly believers and the Rephaim, terrible ones, took place in the region east of the Jordan River. Og and Sihon, two Amorite kings, stood between the nation of Israel and entry into the Promised Land. The Israelites initially requested peaceful passage through Sihon's territory but found themselves immediately on the cusp of battle:

Facing The Giants: King Sihon And King Og: Numbers 21:21-35, Deut. 2:24-3:11

These larger-than-life enemies were the last who Moses would defeat on behalf of the children of Israel. Their conquest was miraculous and unimaginable.

The Amorites were known as fierce warriors during their prime.

- In the first stage of conquest, O.T. texts label the men of Ai [Josh. 7:7], along with the armies of Sihon [warrior] and Og [Num. 21:21-35], as formidable Amorite foes.
- Amorites are territorial spirits who like to dominate over great numbers of people.
- The Bible describes the Amorites as a dominant tribe that ruled Bashan and Gilead.

Sihon, king of the Amorites, was a mighty king with a strong and terrible army.

He ruled, from the city of Heshbon, a pagan nation located east of the Jordan River near the Promised Land during the time of Moses.

Deut. 2:24-25 Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and Contend With Him In Battle. This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee.

- Even the most powerful Canaanite kings began to fear the power of God.
- As a result, God's people were no longer too scared to face the giants and powerful armies that lay ahead. They learned to trust God no matter how big the problem.

Num. 21:21-22 And Israel sent messengers unto Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, ²² 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 highway, until we be past thy borders. [out of Your Territory].

Num. 21:23 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. [Don't come near me or I'll shoot!]

- Amorite spirit will threaten non-submissive followers.

Num. 21:24-25 And Israel smote him with the edge of the sword and possessed his land from Arnon unto Jabbok... ²⁵ And Israel took all these cities: and Israel dwelt in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all the villages thereof.

Israel defeated a mighty enemy that seemed indestructible.

This added to the new nation's growing fierce reputation that began spreading into Canaan even before they crossed the Jordan.

After this victory, Moses and his men headed for the land of Bashan which was comprised of 60 walled cities [WOW] and many unwalled towns. Og, king of Bashan, was the last survivor of the Rephaim [terrible ones] who were giants and fierce fighters.

Deut. 3:1 Then we turned and went up the road to Bashan, and Og, king of Bashan, came out with all his people to meet us in battle at Edrei.

Consider: He had a massive defensive advantage provided by his city walls. Why would Og leave his cities and enter into open combat with Israel? Why take the risk when his armies could remain behind their walls for the Israelites to try and siege?

Joshua 24:12 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."

Deut. 3:2-11 But the LORD said to me, 'Do not fear him, for I have handed him and all his people and his land over to you; and you shall do to him just as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon.' ³ So the LORD our God also handed over to us Og, king of Bashan, with all his people, and we struck them until no survivor was left. ⁴ We captured all his cities at that time; there was not a city which we did not take from them: sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ⁵ All these were cities fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, besides a great many unwalled towns. ⁶ We utterly destroyed them, as we did to Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children of every city. ⁷ But all the animals and the spoils of the cities we took as our plunder.

⁸ "So at that time we took the land from the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, from the Valley of Arnon to Mount Hermon... ¹⁰ all the cities of the plateau, all Gilead, and all Bashan, as far as Salecah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan.

¹¹ (For only Og king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold, his bed was a bed of iron; it is in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon.

Amos 2:9 Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; His bed of iron was approximately 13.5' long by 6' wide.

Note: The territory of the two defeated Amorite kings became the inheritance of the tribes of Reuben, Gad and $\frac{1}{2}$ the tribe of Manasseh [Num. 32-21-33.39; Deut. 3:8-13].

Ps. 135:10-12 Who smote great nations, and slew mighty kings;

¹¹ Sihon king of the Amorites, and Og king of Bashan, and all the kingdoms of Canaan:

¹² And gave their land for an heritage, an heritage unto Israel his people.

Ps. 136:17-20 To Him which smote great kings: for His mercy endureth for ever:

¹⁸ And slew famous kings: for His mercy endureth for ever:

¹⁹ Sihon king of the Amorites: for His mercy endureth for ever:

²⁰ And Og the king of Bashan: for His mercy endureth for ever

Michael Heiser: The Unseen Realm

Question: What do Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ at Caesarea Philippi, the Nephilim, the worship of Baal, and the locations of Mount Hermon and the land of Bashan, the strong bulls of Bashan all have in common?

Scripture states there is a connection between angels and the different nations of the world. When the Jews were about to return from Babylonian captivity [after 70 years], the prophet Daniel began to pray and fast for their return. After 3 weeks of prayer, an angel appeared and explained to Daniel the reason for the delay.

Dan. 10:10-13; 20 Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands. ¹¹ And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you."

While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.

¹² Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³ But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me 21 days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. ²⁰ And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come.

- Gain insight into battles occurring in the spiritual realm. Took the angel 21 days to answer Daniel's prayer - he was hindered by the prince of the kingdom of Persia.
- The prince of Persia seems to be the angel that was overseeing this nation. He was opposed to the Jews returning to their Promised Land. [Fulfill prophecy]
- After his battle with the prince of Persia, this angel said the angel, or prince, of Greece was to come. Greece will be the next Gentile empire of the world.

When the New Testament uses the word "rulers" to describe the orders of angels, this may include these various angels over the nations. The word is used of both good and bad angels. Eph. 6:12 For our struggle is not against enemies of flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the evil spiritual forces in the heavenly places.

- Our ultimate struggle is against these rulers and authorities.

Conclusion: Scripture indicates that Michael the archangel looks after the nation Israel.

There are also other angels that oversee the various nations. Scripture gives examples of angels looking over the affairs of Greece and Persia. These orders of angels are perhaps the rulers that Paul referred to when he said that our struggle is with spiritual forces.

A Spiritual Battle Between Mt. Hermon & Mt. Zion

Mt. Hermon was one of 2 sacred mountains of the Canaanites.

- Mt. Hermon is said to be at odds with God's holy mountain, Zion.

Ps. 68:15-16 God chose Mt. Zion for His dwelling even though it was much smaller and less imposing than Mt. Hermon which is over 9,000'.

The Psalmist David pictured the other mountains as jealous because they were not selected. Mt. Zion was to be God's dwelling place. [Ps. 132:13-14; I Kings 8:12-13]

Mount Hermon, Baal, and the Nephilim

1. The Phoenicians, worshippers of Baal, [Jezebel; I Kgs. 18:19], considered Mount Hermon to be the mountain of Baal.
2. Biblical accounts in Judges 3:3 & I Chron. 5:23 state the mountain was considered sacred to the worshippers of the Canaanite god Baal.
3. Extensive excavations found over 20 temples on her slopes.
4. Mount Hermon, holiest of all, had other mystical attributes as well on her slopes.
5. According to the Book of Enoch and Jewish tradition, Mount Hermon was the gathering place of the rebellious angels who descended from its heights to mate with the daughters of men, resulting in the birth of the Nephilim. [hybrid race of giants]

The name Hermon is derived from the Hebrew words:

- *herem* noun a thing devoted to God for destruction
- *haram* verb to devote to destruction because it is set apart to God alone

These are the words used in the Conquest narrative [Deut.-Joshua] to describe the utter destruction of the people of Canaan.

Bashan- The Place of the Serpent

Caesarea Philippi and Mount Hermon reside in the territory of the land of Bashan.

1. Bashan can mean a "fertile, stoneless piece of ground." Lush, fertile pastureland
 - East of Jordan River and Sea of Galilee. [2 ½ tribes desire> cows of Bashan]
2. Another meaning of this root is "Serpent" [Eve's desire; looked good]

[Lete, del O. G. (1999). Bashan. In K. van der Toorn, B. Becking, & P. W. van der Horst [Eds.], Dictionary of deities and demons in the Bible

Inhabitants Of Bashan

Bashan, called the land or hell of the Rephaim [giants, terrible ones].

Bashan was said to be the residence of the dead and deified kings.

- Amorite King Og, the giant with six fingers and toes resided in Bashan. [Num. 21:33; Deut. 3:1-17].

Deut.3:11, 13 For only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants; behold his bedstead was a bedstead of iron; is it not in Rabbath of the children of Ammon? nine cubits was the length thereof, and four cubits the breadth of it...[13' long by 6' wide]

- A man needing this size of bed was likely very tall—ten or eleven feet.

Although Og reigned over the Amorites and was called the king of the Amorites, he himself belonged to the giant-like people Rephaim, as was Goliath, and was their last survivor. Joshua 12:4-5 "The other king was Og king of Bashan and his territory, who was of the remnant of the giants [Hebrew = *Rephaim*], who dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei, and reigned over Mount Hermon, over Salcah, over all Bashan, as far as the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and over half of Gilead to the border of Sihon king of Heshbon."

The Gates of Hades - Hell

Mt. Hermon was one of 2 sacred mountains of the Canaanites.

The other was in the NW corner of modern Syria, overlooking the ancient city of Ugarit.

Ugaritic texts: Bashan was clearly identified as the underworld.

"For the 'Canaanites' of Ugarit, the Bashan region, or a part of it, clearly represented 'Hell,' the celestial and infernal abode of their deified dead kings.

It is possible that this localization of the Canaanite Hell is linked to the ancient tradition of the place as the ancestral home of their dynasty...the Biblical Rephaim."

[Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible, 2nd Ed. (Eerdmans, 1999), "Bashan," p. 162]

The *Rephaim/Rapum* are the subject of an entire set of tablets retrieved from Ugarit's ruins.

- Rephaim are described as "the gods" tablet 1, line 1, and
- "the divine ones . . . the warriors of Baal" tablet 3, lines 6-7
- called "the Rephaim of the underworld" . . . tablet 2, column 3

These descriptions are consistent with those of the Bible, which uses *rephaim* to denote

- several tribes of giants in Canaan Gen. 14:15ff, I Sam. 17, II Sam. 21:16ff
- but also the spirits of the dead Ps. 88:10; Prov. 2:18; Isa. 14:9, 26:14 & 19
- including at least some that were slain in the Flood Job 26:5

There is complete agreement between the Ugaritic texts, the Biblical texts, pagan Greek tradition [specifically Hesiod, as noted in *Dic. of Deities*, p. 235], the ancient Jewish tradition [Enoch 15:8ff, Jubilees 10:5ff] and the ancient Church tradition [Justin Martyr, Athenagoras] that:

- the demons were the souls of a race of "heroes" Greek term
- "gods" Ugaritic texts
- or hybrid human-angelic race Biblical, Jewish, & Christian tradition

who once walked the earth, died, but whose spirits remained and could be contacted by mortals now.

Suddenly, the terror shown by the Midianites [Num. 22] and the Canaanites [Jos. 2:9] makes perfect sense. It wasn't just a general sense of dread that God sent to paralyze them. They were confronting a mysterious people who walked under the visible Presence of the Holy One, a God who had destroyed Egypt to take His people out, and who had just marched His people through Canaanite Hell and killed its king, Og of Bashan - as the *warmup* to the conquest of the Land!

Provoking the Forces of Hades
Two events in Jesus' earthly ministry

I. Exorcism of a "Legion" of demons from a man in the "country of the Gerasenes"
Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-37

When Jesus and the disciples crossed over Galilee to its eastern shore, they were literally stepping into territory ruled over by "fallen angel rulers."

When confronted by the Son of God, the demons initially resist being cast out, begging not to be sent away "into the Abyss" or "out of the country." [Mark 5:10]

- The country of the Geresenes was within the ancient boundaries of Bashan.
- The demons begged not to be sent from that particular plot of real-estate.
 - ❖ They were the spirits of the Rephaim, who had dwelt there for thousands of years, being alternately sought-after and feared by the mortal inhabitants.

II. Jesus & His Disciples in Caesarea Philippi

In New Testament times, Caesarea Philippi, on the border of ancient Bashan, lay at the foot of Mt. Hermon. This area was saturated with temples and statues to the Greek gods.

It was also associated with Baal, the Nephilim, the name "place of the serpent" and the realm of the dead.

Earlier, this area was a cave grotto dedicated to various fertility gods, which were believed to go into the ground during the winter and come out in the summer.

- Called 'the gates of Hades;' the realm of the dead, the underworld.
- The Cave of Pan [goat god] was called "The Gates of Hades."

In the midst of the Baal shrines at Caesarea Philippi, etched into the side of Mount Hermon to worship pan, Peter proclaimed Jesus to be The Christ, the Son of The Living God. [Matt. 16:16]

This was No coincidence that His testimony was made amongst pagan worship,

"In the darkest place possible, Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was, and the light of God shone on Bashan through Peter's confession."

Consider: At this point, Jesus had shown part of His hand - the game plan was starting to unfold and the enemy had gotten a whiff of it. These 'sons of God' [aka fallen angels / gods] from that region weren't going to give up willingly.

Matt. 16:20 Then charged He His disciples that they should tell no man that He was Jesus the Christ. Jesus immediately begins to tell His disciples He will have to go to Jerusalem, suffer and die because of His ministry [Matt. 16:21].

Ps. 22:1, 11-13 My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my help are the words of my groaning. ¹¹Do not be far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

Many bulls have surrounded me: strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me.

They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

- This was obviously a prophecy of what was to happen on Calvary.
- The psalmist wasn't shown a vision of angry bulls from the Golan Heights surrounding Christ on the cross.
- He was given a glimpse into the future at *spirits* from Bashan, demonic entities represented by strong bulls, who surrounded the cross to celebrate what they thought was their victory over the Messiah.

The curiously worded "strong bulls of Bashan" surrounding Jesus at the time, were the unseen forces of darkness that gathered to ensure His incarnation would come to an end. However, this was the "goal."

I Cor. 2:7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: ⁸ Which none of the princes [rulers] of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- Could these be the "strong bulls of Bashan," the "sons of God" in Gen. 6, who were now the gods or rulers of the nations in that region?

Paul says, they wouldn't have done this if they'd known that Resurrection was part of God's mystery hidden before time began, for it was His massive own goal, a sting operation, with the Cross as the "ultimate honeytrap."

Col. 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Possible Conclusion:

The strong bulls of Bashan were the judged 'sons of God', spiritual authorities who had been assigned over the nations of the world. They gathered at the scene of the crucifixion and were defeated in the light of the dawn of the Resurrection that would come days later.

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