

## 30 AMAZING BIBLE STORIES YOU MAY NOT KNOW

### #1 – King Og of Bashan | Deuteronomy 3:1-13

#### LOOKING AT THE TEXT

- Verse 1 - [Deuteronomy 1-3](#) speaks of the possession of the land east of Jordan by the Israelites that took place shortly before the death of Moses and the conquest of the Promised Land. Chapter 3 is the conquest of the Kingdom of Og, the king of Bashan. The battle is also given in brief in [Numbers 21:33-35](#). **Bashan** is east and north of the Sea of Galilee (modern day Golan Heights, and beyond)
- Verses 2-7 - The Lord provided a full and complete victory. The Israelites **smote him until none was left to him remaining** (v. 3). The Israelites went so far as **utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city** (v. 6). The only time the Israelites did this was when there was a connection to the Nephilim.
- Verses 8-10 - A short geographical description of the Kingdom of Og.
- Verse 11 - Here we are told that Og is the last of the **remnant of giants**. The word **giants** is *Rephaim*, and Og is the last of this branch of the Nephilim. There is the possibility that **bedstead** is actually a reference to his *tomb* and not his actual bed. If this is the case, then he is buried in Rabbath, in Ammonite territory. The city later became one of the 10 cities of the Decapolis. The size of the **bedstead** was 9x4 cubits, **after the cubit of a man**. This interesting phrase gives indication that perhaps the *cubit of a giant* would not be accurate for the measurement. A cubit is the measurement from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger.
- Verses 12-13 - The land of Og became the land of the tribe of Manassah, son of Joseph.

#### WHO WERE THOSE GIANTS?

- The Rephaim are first mentioned in Genesis 14:5 and again in 15:20, but we are not given any information about them. In these passages, the KJV *transliterates* as a proper noun rather than *translate* to *giants*, as in Deuteronomy 3:11.
- The word *Rephaim* is often translated as either *giants* or *dead*. For example, Job 26:5 says, **Dead things are formed from under the waters**. However, the word **formed** could also be *wait*. If so, the verse would read *“Rephaim wait*

*under the waters”* and could be a reference to the **spirits in prison** (1 Peter 3:19-20).

- Isaiah 26:13-14 speaks of the Rephaim as **deceased** and tells us **they shall not rise**. Since all humans have a resurrection, this verse sounds like they are *non-human* or *trans-human*.
- While Og is stated as the last of the remnant of *Rephaim*, we are not told whether there are other branches of Nephilim that were not destroyed. Israel was instructed to **utterly destroy** (Dt. 20:17) the tribes that contained Nephilim, but they were unfaithful in doing so. Haman, for example, was a descendant of Anak, and the Anakim were another branch of Nephilim.

#### A JEWISH VIEW OF OG

- Jewish rabbinical teaching claims that Og survived the flood. The manner of his survival is disputed.
- They also teach that Og was the **one that had escaped** the battle of Genesis 14:13 (Abraham vs the five kings). According to this tradition, Og’s motives were less than pure. He desired Abraham to go into battle so that he would be killed and Og could take beautiful Sarah as his wife. Og was cursed (according to this tradition) to die by the descendants of Abraham.
- Rabbinical teaching is that Moses was not only afraid of Og because of his size, but also because he had been the one to save Lot’s life at the battle of the five kings (by alerting Abraham). Moses feared that perhaps God would reward him for *blessing Abraham*, even though he did it out of evil motives. The famous Jewish commentator Rashi commented on Numbers 21:34, saying, “Moses was afraid to wage war lest the merit of Abraham stand on Og's behalf.”

#### DOES OG HAVE A FUTURE?

- King Og is dead, and will have no resurrection (Is. 26:14). But what happens to dead Nephilim? It appears they are kept in prison (1 Peter 3:19).
- We know that Satan is someday **loosed out of his prison** (Rev. 20:7). We also know that the **Bottomless Pit** (Rev. 9:1) has a key, and will be opened.
- Could it be that Og and Gog are the same person, that Gog is the former Gog? The timing of the Ezekiel 38-39 war would fit well with Revelation 9.