

Deuteronomy 3:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then we turned, and went up the way to Bashan: and Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei.

Analysis

The phrase 'we turned, and went up the way to Bashan' marks forward movement toward the Transjordan conquest. Og king of Bashan's aggressive response ('Og came out against us') provoked defensive warfare. Unlike Edom and Moab (which Israel was forbidden to attack), Bashan wasn't under divine protection. God sometimes allows enemies to initiate conflict to justify necessary battles. Og's aggression served God's purposes to give Israel this strategic territory.

Historical Context

Bashan was a fertile plateau region northeast of the Sea of Galilee, known for strong cattle (Psalm 22:12) and oak trees. Og's kingdom included 60 fortified cities (Deuteronomy 3:4-5). This conquest gave Israel control of the entire Transjordan from the Arnon to Mount Hermon.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you discern when conflict is initiated by enemies versus when you're inappropriately aggressive?
2. What strategic territories in your spiritual life need to be conquered and possessed?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּפְּן	וַיָּעַל	דֶּרֶךְ	הַבָּשָׁן	וַיֵּצֵא	עוֹג	מֶלֶךְ
Then we turned	and went up	the way	of Bashan	came out	and Og	the king
H6437	H5927	H1870	H1316	H3318	H5747	H4428
וְהַבָּשָׁן	לְקִרְיָתָנוּ	הָיָא	וְכָל	עַמּוֹ	לְמַלְחָתוֹ	הָ
of Bashan	against	H1931	H3605	us he and all his people	to battle	
H1316	H7125			H5971	H4421	
אֶדְרֵי						
at Edrei						
H154						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:4 (Kingdom): After he had slain Sihon the king of the Amorites, which dwelt in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, which dwelt at Astaroth in Edrei:

Deuteronomy 29:7 (Kingdom): And when ye came unto this place, Sihon the king of Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, came out against us unto battle, and we smote them:

Psalms 136:20 (Kingdom): And Og the king of Bashan: for his mercy endureth for ever: