

Joshua 12:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the coast of Og king of Bashan, which was of the remnant of the giants, that dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei,

Analysis

The second Transjordan king: 'And the coast of Og king of Bashan, which was of the remnant of the giants, that dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei.' Og's identification as 'remnant of the giants' (יֶתֶר הַרְפָּאִים, yeter harelaim) connects him to the Rephaim, ancient people known for extraordinary size. Deuteronomy 3:11 notes Og's iron bedstead was nine cubits long (over thirteen feet), confirming his gigantic stature. This detail matters theologically: Israel defeated seemingly invincible enemies through God's power. The two capitals—Ashtaroth and Edrei—show Og's significant kingdom. The 'giant' designation recalls Israel's earlier fear of giants (Numbers 13:33), which caused forty years wilderness wandering. Now, under Joshua's leadership and God's blessing, they defeat the giants their fathers feared. This demonstrates that faith and obedience enable victory over threats that terrified previous generations.

Historical Context

Og ruled Bashan, the fertile territory north of Gilead, famous for its cattle and oak forests. Ashtaroth and Edrei were major cities; Edrei especially was strongly fortified with extensive underground chambers (archaeological excavations confirm). The Rephaim were ancient peoples associated with great size and strength, mentioned in Genesis 14:5 and elsewhere. Whether Og was literally giant-sized or the term indicates his power and fearsome reputation, the point remains: he was a formidable opponent. Israel's defeat of him (Numbers 21:33-35) demonstrated God's power to overcome humanly impossible obstacles. The victory

was so significant that it's repeatedly memorialized in Scripture (Deuteronomy 3:1-11, Psalm 135:11, 136:20). The lesson: with God, His people overcome enemies that seemed invincible. David's later defeat of Goliath (another giant) echoed this pattern—God's power, not human strength, defeats giants.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'giants' (overwhelming obstacles) has God enabled you to defeat that previously seemed impossible?
2. How does remembering past victories over impossible odds strengthen courage for present challenges?
3. What does God's power to defeat 'giants' teach about His ability to handle your current seemingly impossible situations?

Interlinear Text

וְגַם־אֶת־ And the coast	אֶת־ of	וְאֶת־ Og	וְאֶת־ king	וְאֶת־ בֶּשֶׁן	וְאֶת־ which was of the remnant	וְאֶת־ תַּרְבָּתָן	וְאֶת־ יְמִינָה	וְאֶת־ בָּנָי־ giants
H1366	H5747	H4428	H1316		H3499			H7497
וְאֶת־ that dwelt	אֶת־ at	אֶת־ Ashtaroth	וְאֶת־ and at	אֶת־ Edrei				
H3427	H6252		H154					

וְאֶת־
that dwelt

אֶת־
at Ashtaroth

וְאֶת־
and at Edrei

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:

Joshua 13:12 (Kingdom): All the kingdom of Og in Bashan, which reigned in Ashtaroth and in Edrei, who remained of the remnant of the giants: for these did Moses smite, and cast them out.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org