

Joshua 12:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And reigned in mount Hermon, and in Salcah, and in all Bashan, unto the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and half Gilead, the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.

Analysis

Og's extensive territory: 'And reigned in mount Hermon, and in Salcah, and in all Bashan, unto the border of the Geshurites and the Maachathites, and half Gilead, the border of Sihon king of Heshbon.' The geographic catalog spans from Mount Hermon (far north) to the border with Sihon's kingdom (south), encompassing all of Bashan. Salcah marked the eastern extent. The mention of Geshurites and Maachathites indicates neighboring peoples not fully conquered (13:13 notes they remained). The phrase 'half Gilead' shows Og's kingdom overlapped or bordered Sihon's. This comprehensive territory description establishes the magnitude of Israel's conquests. Two powerful kings with extensive holdings—both defeated by Israel under God's direction. The passage emphasizes that comprehensive victory came from God, not human military superiority. No territorial claim was too large, no enemy too strong when God fought for Israel.

Historical Context

Mount Hermon, the region's highest peak (over 9,000 feet), marked the northern boundary of Og's kingdom and Israel's conquests. Salcah (modern Salkhad) lay about sixty miles east of the Sea of Galilee, marking Bashan's eastern extent. The territory described encompassed roughly 60-70 miles north-south and similar east-west—substantial kingdom. The Geshurites and Maachathites were Aramean

peoples who maintained independence despite Israel's conquest of surrounding territories (they're mentioned as unconquered in Joshua 13:13). Bashan's fertility made it economically valuable; its strategic location made it militarily significant. The combined territories of Sihon and Og gave Israel control of all Transjordan from the Arnon River north to Mount Hermon—fulfilling God's promise (Deuteronomy 3:8). This Transjordan territory, though not the main promised land, was substantial addition. It was allotted to Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh (chapter 13).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the magnitude of God's provision (vast territories, defeated powerful kings) exceed expectations?
2. What does God's comprehensive victory (both Sihon and Og defeated) teach about His thorough faithfulness?
3. How should overwhelming past provision build confidence in God's ability to provide for present needs?

Interlinear Text

וּמָשַׁל	בְּהָר	חֶרְמֹן	וּבְסַלְכָּהּ	וּבְכָל	הַבָּשָׁן	עַד
And reigned	in mount	Hermon	and in Salcah	H3605	and in all Bashan	H5704
H4910	H2022	H2768	H5548		H1316	
גִּבּוֹל	הַגִּשּׁוּרִים	וְהַמַּעֲחָתִים	וְחֵצִי	הַגִּלְעָד		
the border	of the Geshurites	and the Maachathites	and half	Gilead		
H1366	H1651	H4602	H2677	H1568		
גִּבּוֹל	סִיחֹן	מֶלֶךְ	חֶשְׁבּוֹן:			
the border	of Sihon	king	of Heshbon			
H1366	H5511	H4428	H2809			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 3:14 (Parallel theme): Jair the son of Manasseh took all the country of Argob unto the coasts of Geshuri and Maachathi; and called them after his own name, Bashan-havoth-jair, unto this day.

Joshua 13:11 (Parallel theme): And Gilead, and the border of the Geshurites and Maachathites, and all mount Hermon, and all Bashan unto Salcah;

1 Samuel 27:8 (Parallel theme): And David and his men went up, and invaded the Geshurites, and the Gezrites, and the Amalekites: for those nations were of old the inhabitants of the land, as thou goest to Shur, even unto the land of Egypt.