

Joshua 13:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And half Gilead, and Ashtaroth, and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan, were pertaining unto the children of Machir the son of Manasseh, even to the one half of the children of Machir by their families.

Analysis

And their coast was from Mahanaim, all Bashan, all the kingdom of Og king of Bashan—The eastern half of Manasseh received the most northern territory, extending from Mahanaim (מַחְנֵן) northward through all of Bashan (בָּשָׁן). Og (וֹג) was the last of the Rephaim giants (Deuteronomy 3:11), making his defeat particularly significant. His iron bedstead measured 13.5 feet long (Deuteronomy 3:11), indicating extraordinary size. The conquest of giants demonstrated that no enemy, however formidable, can stand against God's purposes.

And all the towns of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Bashan, threescore cities—Jair (יָאִיר, "he enlightens") was a descendant of Manasseh who conquered sixty cities in Bashan, called Havoth-jair (חֲוֹת יָאִיר, "villages of Jair") in his honor (Numbers 32:41, Deuteronomy 3:14). This personal naming of cities acknowledges individual valor within corporate victory. Jair's sixty cities demonstrate that faithfulness multiplies blessing—what began as conquest became generational inheritance, perpetuating his name throughout Israel's history.

Historical Context

Bashan was renowned for its fertile soil, oak forests, and excellent pasture land, producing cattle that became proverbially famous (Amos 4:1, Ezekiel 39:18). The

region stretched from the Jabbok River to Mount Hermon, including the Golan Heights. Og ruled from Ashtaroth and Edrei, cities that became part of Manasseh's inheritance. Archaeological evidence confirms substantial Bronze Age settlement in this region, supporting the biblical account of numerous cities.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the defeat of Og the giant encourage believers facing overwhelming obstacles in fulfilling God's calling?
2. What does Jair's naming of sixty conquered cities teach about how faithful actions can establish lasting legacy?
3. How might the fertile, prosperous land of Bashan illustrate that God often gives His people more abundant blessings than they initially envisioned?

Interlinear Text

לְחֶצֶת	מֶלֶךְ	וְתִּקְרָא	עָרָה	עַמְלָכִים	וְתִּקְרָא	עַמְלָכִים
And half	Gilead	and Ashtaroth	and Edrei	cities	of the kingdom	of Og
H2677	H1568	H6252	H154	H5892	H4468	H5747
בְּבָשָׁן	מִנְשָׁה	בְּנֵי	מִכְּרָר	בְּנֵי	מִנְשָׁה	לְחֶצֶת
in Bashan	of the children	of Machir	of the children	of the children	of Manasseh	And half
H1316	H1121	H4353	H1121	H4519	H2677	
בְּנֵי	לִמְשְׁפָחוֹתֶם:	מִכְּרָר	בְּנֵי	לִמְשְׁפָחוֹתֶם:	מִנְשָׁה	לְחֶצֶת
of the children	of Machir	by their families				
H1121	H4353	H4940				

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 12:4 (Kingdom): And the coast of Og king of Bashan, which was of the remnant of the giants, that dwelt at Ashtaroth and at Edrei,

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