

Lesson 11

The first stab by the Israelites at taking the Promised Land ended with failure due to unbelief. God took them to the land, had spies enter the land, they came back with their report, and the Israelites accepted the bad report of the 10 spies and not the positive report of the remaining two spies.

Because of this unbelief, God takes the Israelites back to the wilderness where they spend the next 40 years. In this process, all of the adults who came out of Egypt die off. What is left after the 40 years are the children of the Israelites who were lead out of Egypt. That and Moses, and the two favorable spies Joshua and Caleb.

After the 40 years, God is ready to again lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Moses lays out a summary of that march in Deuteronomy.

Let's start in Genesis 19:29-38 though.

So, Moab and Ammon were the offspring of Lot. They were the patriarchs of the Moabites and the Ammonites.

Deuteronomy 2-3:13

[Deu 2:9-11 ESV] 9 *And the LORD said to me, 'Do not harass Moab or contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land for a possession, because I have given Ar to the people of Lot for a possession.'* 10 ***(The Emim formerly lived there, a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim. 11 Like the Anakim they are also counted as Rephaim, but the Moabites call them Emim).***

Rephaim is a word used in the Bible to describe the giants in the land. It is the word used to unify all of the various giant clans into one descriptor.

Commentary from the book *The Unseen Realm*, pg. 195.

"These giant clans were related to the Anakin (vv. 10-12), who were, of course, 'from the Nephilim' (Numbers 13:32-33). We aren't told specifically how the bloodline lineages worked, but we are told a relationship existed. Additionally, all of these groups seem to also have been referred to as Rephaim (vv. 11, 20)."

[Deu 2:19-22 ESV] 19 *And when you approach the territory of the people of Ammon, do not harass them or contend with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot for a possession.'* 20 ***(It is also counted as a land of Rephaim. Rephaim formerly lived there--but the Ammonites call them Zamzummim-- 21 a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim; but the LORD destroyed them before the Ammonites, and they dispossessed them and settled in their place, 22 as he did for the people of Esau, who live in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites before them and they dispossessed them and settled in their place even to this day.***

When the Israelites came out of the Wilderness after their 40-year exile, they were on their way to take the Promised Land. This time, God had them journey on the east side of the Dead Sea and the Jordan

River (unlike in the original excursion 40 years ago, when they approached the Promised Land directly from the south).

The first land they came to as they journeyed north was Seir (Edom), which was the land of Esau's descendants (the southeast side of the Dead Sea). God says, "go through them but do not harm them; I have not given them into your hand."

Why does God not want the Israelites to contend with the Edomites or the Moabites?

There were giants in the land (Horites) at one time, but God had already driven the giants out from among the people of Esau. Therefore, God says leave Esau alone.

Next, farther north, came Moab, one of the offspring of Lot. The Moabites also used to have giants in their land. They called them Emim. But, like with Edom, God had already driven those giants out. Therefore, leave Moab alone.

Still further north came the Ammonites, another offspring of Lot. This land also once had giants. They called them the Zamzummin. But again, God had already driven the giants out. Therefore, leave the Ammonites alone.

When were the giants driven out? Let's look at Genesis 14.

Verse 5 shows us that the "giant" names mentioned in Deuteronomy 2 may have been run out of the land at the time the Shinar kings invaded Sodom and Gomorrah in the time of Lot and Abraham, when Lot was captured.

Moses was instructed to leave all three of these nations alone. Why? Because the giants were already displaced.

This brings the point home that the peoples that were targeted for *kherem*, the dedication to destruction, were the ones infected with giants; the ones where the angelic shenanigans were still present.

Deuteronomy 2:24-36

Next, the Israelites came to the Amorites. Now these people still had giants in the land. So, God commanded Moses to send in the troops and kill the Amorites and take their land.

[Deu 2:33-34 ESV] 33 *And the LORD our God gave him [Sihon, king of Heshbon] over to us, and we defeated him and his sons and all his people. 34 And we captured all his cities at that time and **devoted to destruction** every city, men, women, and children. We left no survivors.*

The *kherem*, as footnoted in the ESV, says "set apart (devoted) as an offering to the Lord (for destruction).

Note Deuteronomy 2:37

[Deu 2:37 ESV] 37 *Only to the land of the sons of Ammon you did not draw near, that is, to all the banks of the river Jabbok and the cities of the hill country, whatever the LORD our God had forbidden us.*

Note again that Edom, Moab, and Ammon God forbade the Israelites from conquering. But God did demand that the Israelites take out the Heshbons, who we will see are a segment of the Amorites, and then in Deuteronomy 3 the other segment of the Amorites are taken out; the inhabitants of Bashan.

Why was one people group spared but not the other? The distinction is the presence or non-presence of Rephaim (giants). The distinction is all about spiritual warfare. It's not like the Edomites or the Moabites were morally good people. In future Old Testament books we will see God bringing judgment upon both the Edomites and the Moabites, but that was based upon how they mistreated the nation of Israel.

Here the distinction is the presence of Rephaim (giants); and that means the presence and outcome from spiritual warfare.

These giants are in the land as the direct action of rebellious angels trying to stop the Israelites from taking the Promised Land. These giants are here as the earthly warriors of the angelic realm to thwart God's call that the Seed would come through the Israelites while they are in this God-allotted land.

(Recall that prior to the Flood, Satan was told a Seed was destined to emerge to take him down [Genesis 3]. He tried to stop that Seed by corrupting all human DNA throughout the earth. After the Flood, the Word comes to Abraham and gives him more specific information about this coming Seed. It will be through Abraham's lineage, and that lineage will be housed where the Canaanites live. Now Satan has more precise information about the Seed. He now needs only corrupt the land of Canaan to get in the way of the Seed. That gives Satan a much more economically-expedient attack point).

After defeating the Heshbons, the Lord commanded Moses to go even further north, to the land of Bashan. There, the giant king Og was in charge. Again, the command was given to go into the land and kill the inhabitants and take the land.

[Deu 3:3-4, 6 ESV] 3 *So the LORD our God gave into our hand Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people, and we struck him down until he had no survivor left. 4 And we took all his cities at that time--there was not a city that we did not take from them--sixty cities, the whole region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. ... 6 And we **devoted them to destruction [kherem]**, as we did to Sihon the king of Heshbon, **devoting to destruction [kherem]** every city, men, women, and children.*

[Deu 3:8 ESV] 8 *So we took the land at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, from the Valley of the Arnon to **Mount Hermon**.*

[Deu 3:11 ESV] 11 *(For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the **Rephaim**. Behold, his bed was a bed of iron. Is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit.)* [Nine feet by 13 feet].

The land of Bashan was on the east side of the Sea of Galilee and northward to Mount Hermon. It is largely the present-day Golan Heights. It ran north to Mount Hermon, the same Mount Hermon that the Book of Enoch said was where the rebellious angels descended upon, took their unity vow, then dispersed to undertake their intercourse with the “daughters of men.”

So, God had the people pass through the territories of Edom, Moab, and Ammon (they asked for and were given permission by these peoples to travel through). But then they came to the upper areas in the Transjordan (the east side of the Jordan). That area was still under the dominion of the Nephilim lineage (Rephaim). It was the land of the Amorites.

In an Israelites mind, the use of the terms Canaanite and Amorite conjured up images of supernatural enemies; enemies to both themselves [humans] and their God [supernatural]. These are the peoples under the domain of the Nephilim.

The book of Amos ties the Amorites to the Nephilim.

[Amos 2:9-10 ESV] 9 *"Yet it was I who destroyed the **Amorite** before them, whose **height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks**; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath. 10 Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt and led you forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the **Amorite**.*

Note that it was God who “destroyed his fruit above...” That would have to refer to the spiritual realm. (The “roots beneath” would be the earthly kings).

Remember what Caleb saw and said when he reported back to the Israelites on what he observed when scouting the Promised Land.

[Num 14:9 ESV] 9 *Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. **Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.**"*

That protection would be their spiritual protection. When God showed up on the doorstep of the land of Canaan with the Israelites in tow, the spiritual protection of the giants fled in fear of God.

Back in Genesis 15, when God made his covenant with Abraham, he said it would be another 400 years before the Israelites would take the land that God was promising to Abraham. The reason for the delay was so “the iniquity of the Amorites would be complete.”

[Gen 15:16 ESV] 16 *And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the **iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.**"*

God is sensitive to His actions against sin. He is sensitive to His decrees of dedication to destruction. God is sensitive to the morality and justification of His judgments.

The Watchers were in the process of playing out their sins within the Amorites. But God would wait until the volume of that sin had reached the point where His call for total destruction against the Amorites was a just and righteous call.