The Land of Giants

by David Alsobrook

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Did giants ever exist?

How did they originate?

What happened to them?

Are there giants today?

Unless otherwise noted all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized (King James) Version.

Italicized portions of Scripture quotations are the author's emphasis, not the versions quoted.

Contents

Acknowledgments

Introduction

1 Did Giants Ever Exist?

2 What Were Giants and How Did They Originate?

3 Slaying Giants

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Introduction

Why Giants?

Why a book about giants? Aren't there more important subjects? Why spend precious time on such a trivial, perhaps speculative subject?

If you asked yourself these questions when you saw the cover of this book you are not alone. I remember when my secretary asked me what I was writing and the look she gave me when I told her. She simply could not believe I was writing about *literal* giants. "You mean 'the giants in our lives,' don't you?" she asked in disbelief. "Well, yes, uh...just wait for the book."

Granted, giants are not on the top of God's priority list, but having devoted most of my writing to major Bible doctrines, I don't think the subject of giants is too unimportant to consider now. Especially when the Bible devotes more than 75 verses to this "minor" subject!

Besides, when it comes to the Word of God no one should select certain portions and leave the rest alone. Jesus said that life comes from every word of God (*see* Matthew 4:4).

Often what seems to be a sideline subject is actually far more important than what it appears at first glance.

Such is the case with giants. Let me give you a little tidbit that will be verified as you study this book: giants were actually an early attempt of Satan to corrupt the human family, *thereby preventing the coming of Jesus*, the Seed of the Woman!

Now, if that isn't important, please tell me what is!

Chapter One

Did Giants Ever Exist?

"...all Bashan, which was called the land of giants" (Deuteronomy 3:13).

As a little boy I was fascinated with the story of "Jack and the Beanstalk." The deep bass voice crying out, "Fee, fi, fo, fum...I smell the blood of an Englishman" sent chills up and down my spine. I also marveled at the adventures of Paul Bunyan and his blue ox, Babe. The friendly giant in *Gul iver's Travels* and the mighty Hercules in Greek mythology intrigued me, too. Although I knew none of it was true, my imagination was an open stage where these fictitious guys could play and perform their extraordinary feats, especially during boring days at school.

I heard about giants in Sunday School, too, but my teacher "explained" that Goliath was not a real giant—he was just a big man, since "no such thing as a giant has ever existed."

I unconsciously accepted her statement until I studied the Word of God about giants. I was amazed at the Bible record! Not only do we find solitary giants mentioned, like Goliath and Og, but we even find nations of giants in several references! It is true there were none the size of the fabled Paul Bunyan whose head "reached into the Milky Way" but there were men two and maybe three times taller than we are today! These men not only made many Israelites feel like grasshoppers, but that is in fact how the Hebrews appeared to them (*see*

Numbers 13:32,33).

Have you ever considered Og? (Read about him in Numbers 21:33-35 and Deuteronomy 3:1-11.) This giant king, whose name is recorded in *twenty two* verses of the Bible, ruled over "threescore cities" in the ancient area of Palestine known as Bashan. He slept in a bed of iron (to support his weight) which was *nine cubits long and four cubits wide.*

A "cubit" was a common measurement in antiquity and was gauged from 18 to 25 inches, so you can see that his bed was anywhere from 13 1/2 to 18 feet long (depending on the cubit length you accept) and almost half that wide. In fact, the Ammonites were so amazed at its size that they made his bed a museum-type show piece.1

Many centuries after Og's defeat at the hand of Moses the Israelites still sang praises to the God who smote him (*see* Psalm 135:10-11; 136:17-20). When you consider how large Og was and how powerful his kingdom of sixty cities must have been it was truly remarkable that Moses destroyed him. Og was the last enemy Israel had to conquer before they could enter Canaan (although they were soon scared by the thought of a land of giants to overcome).

No wonder Rahab told the Hebrew spies, partly in reference to Og's defeat, **"...as soon as we had heard these things our hearts did melt...for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath"** (Joshua 2:11).

Og was among the last of the race of giants called the Rephaim (*see* Joshua 12:4)—a ferocious giant nation whose rulers lorded over the other inhabitants of ancient Palestine, according to Isaiah 26:13,14 (literal Hebrew):

"O LORD our God, *other lords beside Thee have had dominion over us:* but by Thee only will we make mention of Thy name. They are dead, they shall not live; *they are deceased* (Rephaim) they shall not rise: therefore hast Thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish."

The Rephaim controlled a large valley, near Jerusalem, for many centuries.

"The valley of the Rephaim or giants near Jerusalem was a perpetual reminder, by its name, of the early stalwart race which long inhabited it (Joshua 15:8; 18:16)" *(Davis Dictionary of the Bible*, p. 269).

The "valley of Rephaim" (valley of giants) is mentioned five times in the King James Bible (2 Samuel 5:18; 23:13; 1 Chronicles 11:15; 14:9; Isaiah 17:5). Unger says the Rephaim were: "...the aboriginal giants who inhabited Canaan, Edom, Moab, and Ammon. In Abraham's time, c. 1950 B.C., Chedorlaomer defeated them. At the period of the Conquest, c. 1440 B.C., Og, king of Bashan is said to have alone remained of this race" (*Unger's Bible Dictionary*, p. 402).

The Rephaim were the most populous of the giant nations and the ones who inhabited the greater Palestine area; hence, the term "Rephaim" became a Hebrew generic word for giants in general more than for the Rephaim tribe in particular.

Bashan, Og's former domain, was an area where many Rephaim lived which was also known as *"the land of giants"* (see Deuteronomy 3:13; Joshua 15:8). In fact, it appears that Palestine was a giant haven where the often mentioned Anakim lived (*see* Numbers 13:22-28; Deuteronomy 1:28; 2:10,11,20,21; Joshua 11:21,22; 14:12,15).

They were a **"people great and tall...and of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak?"** (Deuteronomy 9:2). Anak, the father of their race, was one of the most powerful giants. Anak's father, Arba, ruled ancient Hebron *(see* Joshua 14:15). Anak's sons, Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai were defeated by Caleb (see Joshua 15:14). Under Joshua, however, the Anakim were almost obliterated except "in Gaza, *in Gath,* and in Ashdod" (Joshua 11:22).

Hundreds of years later one giant among this remnant bellowed against the army of Israel and was slain by a shepherd boy. Goliath was one of the remnant of the Anakim: **"Goliath, *of Gath,* whose height was six cubits and a span"** (1 Samuel 17:4). A span was probably 10 to 12 inches and a cubit, as we have seen, was from 18 to 25 inches, the former being most accepted, since the Hebrew cubit measured from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger. Mine is 19 1/2 inches, but there is quite a bit of disagreement among scholars as to translating biblical measurements into modern units of measurement, so I will leave the matter with you.

Goliath was slightly less than three cubits shorter than Og's bed, but he was still 10-13 feet tall! And you should have seen his brothers! Lahmi's spear handle was the size of a weaver's beam (8 to 10 inches in diameter).

Ishbibenob's spear head weighed 300 shekels of brass, or about 12 pounds. A third brother had 24 fingers and toes and was slain by David's nephew, Jonathan. Saph (Sippai) was another of Goliath's brothers was killed during war at Gezer (Gob). (Check this out for yourself in 2 Samuel 21:15-22 and 1 Chronicles 20:4-8).

Goliath and his brothers were among the last of the Anakim giants. Their father is literally called a " *rapha"* 2 and is the singular form of Rephaim. This once again shows that Rephaim was used in a broad, general sense because this giant was, so far as we know, a descendant of Anak.

(Goliath's father lived in Gath, where Joshua 11:22 says that some Anakim remained.)

The **Zamzummim** were as "great, and many, and tall, as the Anakim." According to Deuteronomy 2:19-20 their land was called "a land of giants," and when the Ammonites went against the Zamzummim the Lord went before their army and destroyed them. Evidently their destruction was totally supernatural. They may be first identified in the Bible the "Zuzim" in Genesis 14:5. Here we also find the **Emim** who Moses said were as "great, and many, and tall, as the Anakim; Which also were accounted giants, as the Anakim" (Deuteronomy 2:10,11).

The **Avim** and the **Horim** (sometimes translated "Horites") were two lesser known giant peoples defeated by the descendants of Esau and Caphtor (*see* Deuteronomy 2:12,22,23).

The Nephilim

All these giants, whether Anakim, Horim, Avim, Zamzummim, Emim, or Rephaim were of one type of specie: *nephilim.* This term, although used only three times in the Hebrew Old Testament (Genesis 6:4; Numbers 13:33), is a *characterization term* more than it is anything else.

This word not only means "giant", as it is so translated by most versions, but also means "bully, tyrant" and comes from the Hebrew word *naphal* which the *Lexical Aids to the Old Testament* define as meaning: ". .to fall, to make fall, to cause to fall, to throw down...to fall upon, to attack.. "

Giants were not only the product of fallen angels, as we will study in Chapter

Two, but they, in turn, fell upon those weaker than themselves with violent attacks and complete disregard for the welfare of all others.

All giants, whether of the Emim, Horim, Anakim, or other tribes, were nephilim.

This is plainly seen by its usage in Numbers 13:33 where the "giants" (literally, *nephilim*) seen by the Israelite scouts, were, in fact, Anakim: **"And there we saw the giants (nephilim), the sons of Anak (Anakim), which come of the giants (nephilim): and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."**

The Jerusalem Bible has an interesting footnote on Deuteronomy 2:

"The Anakim were remnants of the prehistoric inhabitants of Palestine and Transjordania. *Tradition associated them with the legendary Nephilim*, and they were supposed to have built the megalithic monuments.

The Emim, Rephaim, Zamzummim and Zuzim were similar remnants from prehistory."

Some Interesting Giant Facts

As I pointed out, the word Rephaim is used many times in the Hebrew as a generic term for "giants" since this tribe, according to the Bible dictionaries, appears to have been the largest and most predominant of the giant nations. The fact that they controlled a large valley near Jerusalem for many centuries probably accounts for the many usages of *Rephaim* in the Hebrew Old Testament.

In the following verses, the Hebrew word ***repaim*** (Rephaim) is sometimes translated "dead." The better rendering, in these particular instances, is "giants." It would occupy too much space to explain the difference in *repaim3*, but allow me to share a few of these Scriptures with you anyway as they will help enlighten our understanding on this intriguing Bible subject.

1. Giants will never be resurrected.

"Shall *the dead* (Rephaim) arise and praise Thee?" (Psalm 88:10).

The Bible clearly teaches that Christians who are raised from the dead will praise God. The word "dead" here should have been rendered "giants" since it confirms the Psalmist's negative implication that these "dead" will not arise and praise God.

"They are dead, they shall not live; they are *deceased* (Rephaim), they shall not rise" (Isaiah 26.14).

It is interesting that the King James translators, as well as many who have followed, did not translate the Hebrew word literally, as such an idea that the **Rephaim** were literal giant beings who would not be resurrected seemed far-fetched to unenlightened translators.

2. Giants were drowned in the Flood and were doomed to hell.

KJV: *"Dead* things are formed from under the waters, and the inhabitants thereof" (Job 26:5).

MOFFAT: "Before Him the primeval giants writhe, under the ocean in their prison; the underworld lies open to His eyes."

FENTON: "The Raphaim (Rephaim), themselves, were destroyed. And rest themselves under the seas."

THE YOUNG'S LITERAL TRANSLATION: "The Rephaim are formed, beneath their waters."

THE AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE: "The shades, the Rephaim tremble beneath the waters and the inhabitants thereof" (margin rendering).

And, to cap it off, the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament made by 70 Jewish scholars 200 years before Christ and used by Him and the Apostles) translates Job 26:5 from the Hebrew as: ***"Are giants going to rise up from the water and the places near its neighborhood?"***

3. Giants were grossly immoral and wicked.

"For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto *the dead* (Rephaim)" (Proverbs 2:18).

"But he knoweth not that *the dead* (Rephaim) are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell" (Proverbs 9:18).

Proverbs 2 and 9 concern "the strange woman" and "a foolish woman" who entice young men lacking godly understanding to commit whoredom. Solomon says the giant races which had formerly inhabited Palestine were grossly immoral and are now kept in the depths of hell.

Those who do likewise, he promises, will find the giants as their permanent companions! Genesis 6:4-5 also teaches the wickedness of the giants as we will see in our next chapter.

4. Giants had no understanding of God and His ways.

"The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of *the dead* (Rephaim)" (Proverbs 21:16).

These words probably came back to haunt Solomon in his later years, after he turned to idols and angered Yahweh. He knew life was fading and that he himself had wandered out of the way of understanding. Those who die in this state will have their fitting abode in the congregation of the Rephaim, who had no understanding of the ways of God.

Indeed, giants were aberrations of creation and God allowed their existence only for a time.

I guess you can tell by now that the subject of giants is far more detailed than what is commonly thought.

By now you are probably asking yourself just what were giants? From where did they come?

End Notes

1 The idea of some that this bed was a sarcophagus (burial box) is neither scriptural nor historical. *The Amplified Bible* and *The American Standard Bible* correctly render it "bedstead."

2 Perhaps the reader noticed that the word *rapha* is identical to one of the Yahweh compound names. In Exodus 15:26 the Lord revealed Himself to Israel

as "Yahweh-Rapha"—a name associated with healing, we are told. Then how is it that the same word (according to our English spelling of it) can mean both giant or healer? The answer is that these *rapha* are not identical. The one for "giant" is #7497 and the one for healer is #7495. They are close, but not identical, which in Hebrew can denote great difference. According to Strong's *Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary #7497* means, "A *giant;*— giant, Rapha, Rephaim" and #7495 means, "to *mend* (by stitching), i.e. (fig.) to *cure*, cause to heal, physician, repair, fix thoroughly, make whole." These two Hebrew words should not be confused.

3 For an explanation on the difference in translation of the Hebrew word *repaim* see page 476, bottom right column, *Dake's Annotated Reference Bible,* and page 858, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament.*

Chapter Two

What Were Giants and How Did They Originate?

"There were giants in the earth in those days..." (Genesis 6:4).

The Bible makes it clear that giants, even giant tribes, existed centuries before Israel's conquest of the promised land. That they were of immense size and mighty strength is also clear. But how did they originate? Were giants the result of overactive pituitaries? Were they the product of genetic mutation? Was their unusual size the result of a peculiar diet they followed?

A recent issue of a popular magazine carried an interesting story about world-class wrestler and movie actor, Andre the Giant. Andre had little trouble pinning Hulk Hogan in a match last year, but this 7 foot plus

"giant" would have looked like a child next to Og (who was at the very least twice his size), perhaps Andre's pituitary worked overtime, but it would require a far stretch of the imagination to think that Og's pituitary was that much more active!

Please understand that when I use the word giant, I am not referring to an unusually tall fellow who can slam dunk a basketball. The term "giants" is loosely applied today to persons who are only a foot or two taller than the rest of us. Those whom we call giants would not have been so designated had they lived

several thousand years ago.

Besides, people like Andre (and there are several in the world today) tower far above their parents and relatives.

They are the exception in size, rather than the norm.

Goliath, on the other hand, had a giant father and giant brothers *(see* 2 Samuel 21:15-22). Goliath's 10-13 foot height was the norm rather than the exception.

The so-called giants of today are more the size of the fellow slain by David's warrior, Benaiah:

"And he slew an Egyptian, a man of great stature, five cubits high; and in the Egyptian's hand was a spear like a weaver's beam; and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear" (1 Chronicles 11:23).

Notice, this "man of great stature" is not specifically called a giant. At 18 inches per cubit, five cubits is 7 1/2 feet (about Andre's size today). The average Egyptian, like ourselves, was much shorter, so that this especially tall Egyptian stood out to them as well as to Benaiah who slew him with his own spear.

Were Giants Simply Big Men?

The fact that there were whole families, tribes, and nations of giants proves that their immense size was average for their kind and was genetically transferred from generation to generation.

There is a 510 year time span between Genesis 14:5 (Chedorlaomer) and Deuteronomy 3:1-11 (Moses), so we know they existed on this planet *after the Flood* for about a thousand years (according to the highly respected chronology of *The Open Bible).* The word "giants" first appears in Genesis 6:4, which took place hundreds of years before Chedorlaomer fought them, indeed centuries *before the Flood* and were a major reason for it. The Bible record indicates there were thousands, even millions, of them reproducing according to the Bible maxim, ".. after their own kind." But how did their own kind begin?

We must accept the fact that giants were not pure descendants of Adam because they did not reproduce normal size men. Pure descendants of Adam reproduced

normal size men and women, as is obvious from the Genesis 5 genealogy. On the other hand, giants produced giants, as seen in the following phrases:

"the sons of Anak, which come of the giants" (Numbers 13:33);

"the sons of the giant...born to the giant" (2 Samuel 21:15-22);

"the children of the giant... the son of the giant" (1 Chronicles 20:4-8).

"Which came first, the chicken or the egg?" Christians believe the chicken came first, as the early verses of Genesis teach that God created every living thing which was to produce after its kind, whether plant, animal, or man. But nowhere do we read that God created giants.

Indeed, as the Bible teaches, giants were an aberration of His creation.

And, as we saw in Psalm 88:10 and Isaiah 26:14, they will not be resurrected. Since all men, whether just or unjust, will be raised from the dead (*see* John 5:28,29) we can safely say that giants were not pure men. They came into existence a long time after the original creation.

Were Giants Satanic Spirits?

Just what were giants? Let me give you one opinion, which I find totally incredible. This opinion holds that giants were not actually men at all, but demons that appeared as man-like creatures. It is based on the fact that the word Rephaim, which we studied in the previous chapter, is sometimes translated " *shades, ghosts"* and for this reason some believe the giants were demonic beings who only appeared to be physical, but were in actual fact huge, satanic apparitions.

I cannot accept this view (and neither do many scholars). God promised Joshua no *man* would be able to stand before him as he prepared to make conquest of a land filled with giants (Joshua 1:5). David's stone sank into Goliath's forehead and Goliath's own massive sword was used to decapitate him. He was flesh and blood as was Og.

(Demons do not sleep on huge beds of iron to support their weight!) Furthermore, the other giants who were slain by God-fearing Hebrews were physical beings who wielded literal weapons *(see* 2 Samuel 21:15-22;

1 Chronicles 20:4-8).

The highly respected Jewish historian, Josephus, gives some interesting information about the physical qualities of giant remains:

"For which reason they removed their camp to Hebron; and when they had taken it, they slew all the inhabitants. There were till then left the race of giants, who had bodies so large and countenances so entirely different from other men, that they were surprising to the sight, and terrible to the hearing. The bones of these men are still shewn to this very day, unlike to any credible relations of other men."

(This quote from Josephus is found in *The Antiquities of the Jews*, Book V, Chapter 2, Verse 3 . He is relating some events that happened in Israel following the death of Joshua.)

No, giants were not spirits but physical creatures whose bones were displayed long after their deaths. Who could possibly believe they were spirit creatures?

For that matter, who could possibly believe that giants were purely human? Josephus says both their size and appearance was "so entirely different from other men...

(and) unlike to any credible relations of other men."

Ne an' der thal (-tal), a [G.. lit., Neander valley: named in honor of Joachim Neander (1650-1680), G. hymn writer]

1. designating, of. or from a valley in the Rhine Province, Germany.

2. designating or of a race of early man of the paleolithic period, whose skeletal remains were first found in this valley. NEANDERTHAL HEAD (reconstructed)

No, giants could not have been spirits, nor could they have been average people. Could it be that the human-like but excessively large skeletal bones and fossils archaeologists have uncovered and labeled as

"Neanderthal" and "Cro- Magnon", if they are credible at all, are actually giant remains? Since Josephus says that giant remains which were initially displayed shortly after the death of Joshua (about 1390 B.C. according to *The Open Bible*)

were "shewn to this very day" which would have been the first century, A.D., this theory doesn't seem unfeasible.

Josephus also tells us that their "countenances were so entirely different from other men." Would this account for the misshapen foreheads of the supposed Neanderthal? I admit this is supposition, but it is as good as any theory scientists have proposed.

What They Were and From Whence They Came

The Bible teaches that giants were a gross mixture of the angelic and human. Giants came from the union of fallen angels and women.

I believe this is the only scripturally feasible conclusion as to their origin. And strange as it may sound this understanding about their origin is not a new, far-fetched idea either. William Whiston, in remarking on Josephus'

comments about giants, said, **"This notion, that the fallen angels were, in some sense, the fathers of the old giants, was the constant opinion of antiquity" (** ***Antiquities of the Jews,*** **Book I, p. 28, footnote).**

But what saith the Scripture?

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."

Genesis 6:1-4 has long been accepted by conservative theologians to be the Scripture account of the origin of giants.

It is true there are scholars who have trouble with the supernatural anywhere it is found in the Bible and have decided that the term "the sons of God" here simply refers to the line of Seth. "The daughters of men", they say, refers to women in the line of Cain. At the first end note you will find my reasons why this is not so.1

Who Were The Sons of God?

The term "sons of God (Elohim)" is found precisely five times in the entire Old Testament (Genesis 6:1-4; Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7). In each passage where this phrase is found it refers to angels. In fact the term "a son of God" appears in the literal Hebrew of Daniel 3:25 and is specifically called an "angel" three verses later.

That "the sons of God" do not refer to men, but to beings who existed *prior* to man's creation is clearly seen in Job 38:4,7 where God asks Job, **"Where wast thou...when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"** This occurred **"when I laid the foundations of the earth,"** Yahweh explained to Job (verse 4).

Furthermore, the New Testament tells us about **"the angels that sinned"** (2 Peter 2:4) when they **"kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation.. *.even as* Sodom and Gomorrah...giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh"** (Jude 6,7).

I'll admit it is hard for many of us to think of angels cohabiting with women. This is due to three primary reasons.

First, because *we mistakenly think they are sexless.* This concept arises from a misconception of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 22:30 which says, **"in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."** Jesus' purpose in this statement was *not* to say that men and women cease to be male and female in heaven, but that they will not need to marry in order to keep their race in existence (since they will never die).

Paul makes it very clear in First Corinthians 15:35-38 that the same kind of body that is raised will be the same one that is sown (albeit spiritual instead of natural). Jesus maintained His masculine identity in His resurrected body. In the resurrection our bodies will not be uncreated, but changed! HALLELUJAH!!

Second, it is hard for many to think of angels cohabiting with women because *we mistakenly think of angels as either babies with halos or women with wings.* Contrary to these popular notions ALL THE ANGELS in the Bible WERE ADULT MEN in their appearance. There is not one female angel mentioned throughout the whole of Scripture, nor is there any statement that they are neuter. From Genesis to Revelation they are consistently depicted in the masculine.2

Third, it is hard to conceive of angels having physical relations with women *because we correctly perceive angels as spirit beings* (Psalm 104:4; Hebrews 1:13,14). So we naturally wonder how could they have had sexual union with "the daughters of men"?

Jude gives us the answer when he tells us how these angels "left their own habitation." The Greek word here rendered "habitation" is used only twice in the entire Greek New Testament (*oiketerion*, #3613). It is translated "house" in 2 Corinthians 5:2, where Paul refers to believers' natural bodies being changed to spiritual bodies. This word is defined as *residence*.

These angels left their "first estate" (their principality of dominion in the spirit realm) and lowered themselves from their spiritual residence into the natural realm.

This important insight from Jude helps us understand how angels could be capable of performing a physical act.

Furthermore there are examples in Scripture of angels lowering themselves into the natural realm in order that they might appear as normal men, and do things people do such as eating with them. In Genesis 18:1-22 the Lord and two angels appeared as "three men." Genesis 19:1-13

tells us about "two angels" who were called "men" by the homosexuals who desired to "know them." Lot not only gave them food, but a place to lie down. Angels do not need food nor sleep, but when they lower themselves into the natural realm they can apparently eat and rest.

According to Hebrews 13:2 some have entertained strangers never realizing they were, in fact, angels. After all, they were normal in size and appearance.

If Jacob were reading this book he could affirm that angels are not only capable of doing spiritual things, like ascending and descending from heaven to earth, but are capable of taking on physical qualities and performing physical deeds, like body wrestling for example (*see* Genesis 28:10-19; 32:24-32).

This concept (that "the sons of God" are angels) is so commonly accepted that some translators, like Moffat, rendered the Genesis 6 passage as "the angels of God" rather than "the sons of God." (I personally believe a translator should translate, not interpret, but I cite Moffat to illustrate my point.)

The Rabbis (excepting Sadducees) universally taught that the beings in this passage were angels. To show how widely this was taught and accepted let me quote another passage from the revered historian, Josephus:

"...many *angels of God accompanied with women,* and begat sons that proved unjust, and despisers of all that was good, *on account of the confidence they had in their own strength,* for the tradition is that these men did what resembled *the acts of those whom the Grecians call giants.* But Noah was very uneasy at what they did; and, being displeased at their conduct, [endeavored to] persuade them to change theirdispositions and their acts for the better;—but, seeing that they did not yield to him, but were slaves to their wicked pleasure, he was afraid they would kill him, together with his wife and children, and those they had married; so he departed out of that land" (*Antiquities of the Jews,* Book I, chapter 3, verse 1).

The Scripture evidence is overwhelming that giants were the product of fallen angels and women, or "the sons of God and the daughters of men." But some would ask, "how could an angel sin?" I agree it is hard to conceive of a being who, after having seen God's face and incomparable love, would, or even could, turn from such a One in rebellion and sin. But this is the teaching of the Word in a number of places *(see* Isaiah 14:3-23; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6,7; Revelation 12:3-12).

Furthermore, note the phrases of Job 1:6 and 2:1. There we are told: **"There was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them."**

Notice that our adversary "came also among them" (the sons of God). Satan was one of these "sons", the anointed cherub who covered, who walked in Eden in the midst of the stones of fire, prior to the creation of man.

These "sons of God" were those who had rebelled against God and fallen from His favor.

If we look at Revelation 12 as the account of the initial rebellion of the devil (called Lucifer at that time, according to tradition rather than Scripture) we see he "drew a third of the stars." These "stars" could refer to "the sons of God" according to Job 38:7.

Satan's Purpose

What I propose now is, I admit, conjecture. The Bible does not plainly say it. I submit it to you for your consideration and judgment.

I believe Satan had a specific purpose in the formation and propagation of giants.

The Lord told him on the day of man's sin, **"Because thou hast done this...I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"** (Genesis 3:14,15).

The Seed of the Woman (our virgin-born Savior) was going to come, God promised, in order to bruise (crush) Satan's head. We know that **"the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field"** (Genesis 3:1). We know that Jesus exhorted His disciples to be "wise as serpents", therefore we know that demons do have a degree of intelligence. The devil is not as stupid as some people make him out to be.

Is it not feasible that Satan assigned a large company of his angels to lower themselves into the natural realm for the purpose of cohabiting with women *in order to corrupt the human race?!* Satan thought if he could succeed in corrupting all mankind, *the Seed of the Woman could not be born!*

Satan's strategy as revealed in Genesis 6 was to hybridize the race, so that it could never be redeemed.

According to Hebrews 2:17 there is no plan of salvation for angels; hence, Jesus could not have redeemed such a half-man, half-angel hybrid race. The fact there is no resurrection for giants also attests to this truth.

I believe this was Satan's purpose in the origin of giants, and what is more, I want to suggest to you that he almost succeeded!

Al Flesh Corrupted

A few verses after we are told about the origin of giants the Bible declares:

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; FOR ALL FLESH HAD CORRUPTED HIS WAY UPON THE EARTH" (Genesis 6:11,12).

The word "corrupt" is *shachath* (Strong's #7843). It is used *three times* in these two verses, emphasizing the great degree of corruption in the earth before the Flood. The *Lexical Aids* define *shachath* as meaning: **"to decay, to destroy, to ruin, to pull down, to wound, to harm, to violate, to injure, to devastate, to mar, to act perversely."**

Moses says "ALL FLESH (mankind) HAD CORRUPTED HIS WAY." Take the meanings given for *shachath* and it is quite easy to see what Moses meant. *Al mankind was decayed, ruined, pul ed down, violated, devastated, perverted, and marred!*

We generally think that the pre-Flood condition was morally corrupt and it was, for "the earth was filled with violence." Iniquity and injustice was the order of the day.

North America's Old West would have been tame by comparison! The **Nephilim** (#5303) were totally perverse and cruel. There was no such thing as a good giant. The only words we have in the Bible from a giant are those from Goliath in First Samuel 17:8-11; 42-44. He was a violent, profane person for sure. In fact, *nephilim* not only means "giant" but also means "bully, tyrant" and we see those characteristics evident in Goliath's speech.

The Hebrew word *nephilim* is used three times in the Old Testament (Genesis 6:4; Numbers 13:33). And, as I said, it means "giant, bully, tyrant." The Septuagint translates this word as *gigantes.* Not only were the *nephilim* tall, as Numbers 13:32-33 indicates in its two usages of this word, but they were indeed bullies and tyrants, as Genesis 6:4-13 indicates.

The Antediluvian (pre-Flood) period was noted not only for its violence and lack of moral standards, but according to the definition of *shachath,* we must also see that mankind (the race itself) was decayed, ruined, marred, and devastated! No wonder God said He would destroy it all! The race had become a gross mixture of the angelic and human. God's initial creation of man had become ruined and marred.

According to Genesis 6:1 there had been a population explosion over "the face of the earth" during the period when this infestation occurred. Dake estimates the Antediluvian population at 150 million to 500 million.

There is no way anyone could actually know how many millions of people there

were, but the Bible plainly says all of them, or at least virtually all of them, were "corrupted."

Noah Was Perfect

There was one man, however, in the line of Seth who **"found grace in the eyes of the LORD"** (Genesis 6:8). This man was **"a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God"** (Genesis 6:9).

Notice the three characteristics Moses gives of Noah:
JUST PERFECT WALKED WITH GOD

I have researched these words in the Hebrew language and have found something most interesting. First, the word "just" is the Hebrew word *tsaddyq* (#6662) and derives from *tsadaq* (#6663). *The Lexical Aids* tell us that the former word means one who is "just, lawful, righteous, honest, right" and is used in Psalm 145:17 where we are told that **"The LORD is *righteous* in all His Ways."** The root word means "to be right (in a moral or forensic sense); to clear oneself; to cleanse; to be straight, to be just, to be true, to be upright, to be righteous."

Thus, from the word "just" we see that Noah was a man whose character was morally upright, honest, righteous, and straight. His behavior was clearly distinct from those around him.

But the second word is "perfect" and is the Hebrew word *tamiym* (#8549) and means "perfect, sound (i.e. free from blemishes in sacrificial victims, Ex. 12:5; Lev. 1:3)" (*Lexical Aids to the Old Testament). Tamiym* is also used to mean "integrity, honesty", as it basically "means entire (literally or morally) whole."

Since Moses had just said that Noah was "just" before he said that Noah was "perfect" it would seem to me (and others) that he referred to Noah's *character* in the first descriptive word ("just") and to Noah's *person* in the second descriptive word ("perfect").

Otherwise you have a needless repetition. Moses might as well have said, "Noah was just and just." But the combination of *tamiym* immediately after *tsaddyq* would seem to indicate that Noah was righteous and unblemished.3

Third, we are informed that Noah "walked with God."

The word is *halak* (#1980) and means "to go, to walk, to go forth...to walk assiduously, carefully, perseveringly" (*Old Testament Word Studies*, p. 471). This is how Noah conducted himself with God. God and Noah were conversant.

There may have been others in the earth who were not blemished physically, but there could not have been many, since ALL FLESH we are told was corrupt. Noah was chosen not only because he was physically whole, but also because he was righteous and walked with God. He met the three criteria God required.

The Purpose of the Flood

After God saw how "all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth" He immediately said to Noah, **"the end of all flesh is come before Me"** (Genesis 6:13). *The Flood was sent for the purpose of wiping out the pol uted race.* God said, "I will destroy them with the earth" so as to purify the planet from its inhabitants. Afterwards **"Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark"** (Genesis 7:23).

The Flood was God's answer to Satan's attempt to pollute the whole race of mankind with mixed offspring.

Evidently giants raped and pillaged at will. They filled the earth with "violence" *(chamac*, #2555). Murder, rape, wickedness and all sorts of wrong filled the earth in the days before the Flood. Giants knew no loyalty and evidently had no marriage covenant of any kind. No wonder a population explosion took place. Their initial fathers, the fallen angels, **"took wives of all which they chose."** They were unrestrained in their lusts and their cohabiting with women. There is no telling how many women they impregnated. Their giant offspring followed suit begetting more giants by taking any women they chose.

In fact the word "wives" in Genesis 6:2 is the plural form of the Hebrew *ishshah* (#802) which Strong's *Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary* defines as "a woman (used in the same wide sense as 582):—adulteress, female, wife, woman."

Zodhiates' *Lexical Aids to the Old Testament* says, "The word is used 800 times in the O.T. and its basic meaning is a female, as opposed to a male."

So, the word translated "wives" in the Genesis passage simply means a female as

opposed to a male, that is, *ishshah* can refer to a woman who is an adulteress or prostitute as much as it can refer to a wife. Benjamin Sandlin advises me that neither Hebrew nor Greek has a separate word for "wife" as opposed to "woman." In many references *ishshah* obviously refers to a wife, but here its plural form obviously means women, whether married or unmarried, who willingly yielded their bodies in immoral union to the fallen angels.

Why were women so eager to yield themselves to angels? The answer may be that these supernatural beings beguiled them through demonstrating their spectacular powers. Whether or not this is true there remains the fact that there was something that seduced these many women, for certain, and it may have been nothing more than the power of lust. After all, since the angels lowered themselves into the natural realm the women they took may well have thought these angels were men. One has to speculate this point as the Bible does not come right out and tell us. It does say that the angels simply *"took* them wives (women) of all which they chose" and perhaps this taking was more on the order of seizing, such as rape. But then it doesn't seem consistent with divine justice as revealed throughout the Scriptures that God would judge these women, as well as the rest of the world, had they been innocent victims. Indeed the Genesis passage teaches that their thoughts were continuously evil (verse 5).

At least two of the early church fathers taught that women of the Antediluvian world desired angelic lovers *primarily from their own wickedness.* Justin Martyr, who lived from 110 to 165 A.D., said that the angels who transgressed *"were captivated by love of women" (Vol.* 2, p. 190).

He evidently believed that women desired these relationships and that fallen angels were enticed into this type of activity. Methodius, too, who lived from 260 to 312 A.D., expressed his belief that angels were charmed by women when he wrote, "the devil was insolent...as also those (angels) who were *enamoured of fleshly charms,* and had illicit intercourse with the daughters of men" (Vol. 6, p. 370).

Regardless of whatever motives on either side, God's judgment fell on both. His judgment on the world for this wickedness was the Flood; His judgment on the angels who sinned in this manner was immediate imprisonment.

Tartarus

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment..." (2 Peter 2:4).

Peter tells us that God has already judged and confined into chains of darkness "the angels that sinned."

It is obvious that Satan has not yet been "cast down into hell" and Paul tells us that we are wrestling against "principalities, powers, (and) rulers of darkness" (Ephesians 6:12). These hostile principalities, I believe, are angels who aligned themselves with Satan and were rejected by God for their rebellion.

It would not be feasible, therefore, that all fallen angels are presently "delivered into chains." The majority of fallen "sons of God" are in the same category as the demons who cried out to Jesus, **"art Thou come hither to torment us before the time?"** (Matthew 8:29).

When we compare Second Peter 2:4 with Jude 6,7 (and we should because they are what scholars call "parallel passages") we see that Peter's remarks about "the angels that sinned" should be combined with Jude's teaching about "the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation." Especially since Jude almost quotes Peter, in part, when he says God "hath reserved (them) in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

Since Jude likens these particular angels to Sodom and Gomorrah (note the beginning of verse 7: "Even as.. ") who gave "themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh" we can clearly see that the angels who sinned by performing sexual union with women have long been judged and confined.

Peter says that these particular angels were "cast down into hell." What is simply amazing in his statement is that he chose a Greek word when he said "hell" that no one else ever used in the entire New Testament! Peter chose the word *tartaroo.* The *Lexical Aids to the New Testament* define this word this way:

"Tartaroo; *tartaros,* found only in its verbal form in **II** Peter 2:4 meaning to consign to Tartarus, which is neither Sheol of the O.T. nor Hades of the N T., nor Gehenna or hell, but the place where certain angels are confined, reserved unto judgment. This punishment for these angels is because of their special sin."

In Greek mythology Tartarus is often depicted as a prison for temporarily

deposed "gods." I believe, on the basis of God's Word that a place called Tartarus actually exists, but that its only inhabitants are angels that went after "strange flesh" by lowering themselves into the natural state for the purpose of sinning. God judged them by sending them to Tartarus where they await the final judgment of the great day. Perhaps they are the *repaim* which should be translated as "shades of death; ghosts" and no doubt they are huge beings who begat sons like them.

Tartarus is located in the bowels of the earth, under the sea, if the following Scripture is a reference to Tartarus rather than to hell (Gehenna) and if these "giants" are the spiritual *repaim* (which scholars translate as "shades" or "ghosts" in reference to fallen angels) rather than the natural Rephaim (physical giants):

"The Shades tremble beneath the earth; the waters and their denizens are afraid. Before His eyes Sheol is bare, Perdition itself is uncovered" (Job 26:5, *The Jerusalem Bible).*

Oh, by the way, about those stories I heard and read in my youth and about Greek mythology in general...

Since undertaking this study on giants I now believe many of those stories are exaggerations of legends, over centuries of time, from actual feats of strength performed by the giants that once inhabited the earth. Genesis 6:4 calls them "the heroes of old" *(New English Bible).*

I am not alone in this view. Dake, whose notes on this subject were inspirational to my study, said it more eloquently:

"The revelation we have of giants, in Scripture, gives us a true picture of what Greek mythology tries in vain to give. Ours is an accurate account because [it is] divinely inspired. Mythology is the outgrowth of traditions, memories, and legends telling of the acts of the supernatural fathers and their giant offspring—the perversion and corruption in transmission of actual facts concerning these mighty beings. The fact that giants were partly of supernatural origin made it easy for men to regard them as gods" *(Dake's Annotated Reference Bible*, p. 62, col. 3).

Giants were Satan's first attempt to pollute the whole race of mankind, thereby preventing a pure lineage through which Messiah could come. But, thank God, Satan was foiled in his first attempt and in every attempt that followed! (I

believe he tried to annihilate the Jewish race in Esther's time, to prevent David's greater Son from ever being born.)

But the Son of David, the Seed of the Woman, the Branch of Jesse, was born of a virgin and died on the cross to effect man's redemption. Jesus died in the divinely planned method, on the Cross, in spite of Satan's attempts through Herod, the hometown folks at Nazareth, the Pharisees in the temple, and even perhaps in the Garden of Gethsemane, to do away with Him before the "due time" when He offered Himself as our Sin Offering.

If you have not received His sacrifice, call on Jesus today!

Maybe as you have read this chapter a question has arisen in your mind. Perhaps you have wondered how giants existed *after* the Flood? As we saw in Chapter One the Bible teaches the existence of several tribes of giants in the promised land (the Rephaim, Anakim, Zamzummim, Emim, Horim, and Avim) as well as solitary giants like Og, Arba, Anak, Goliath, Ishbibenob, and Saph.

The answer is quite simple. Notice in the initial text of Genesis 6:4 that Moses said, **"There were giants in the earth *in those days; and also after that,* when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men..."**

The phrase "in those days" refers to the Antediluvian period. But Moses did not limit giants to that period. He immediately added, "and also after that" referring to the days after the Flood when Satan again tried to corrupt all flesh. (Check this out with several versions and you will be amazed how clear it is. Several versions read "and also afterwards.")

Why would Satan repeat such a thing? He knew that God had promised He would never again destroy the earth by water (*see* Genesis 9:11). After all, he must have reasoned, he nearly succeeded the first time, so why not try again?

Evidently Satan assigned a group of fallen angels again to cohabit with women, and their offspring multiplied into the giant nations that inhabited Palestine from the days of Chedorlaomer onwards to the remnant David and his men fought. Dake comments:

"Thus it is clear from Scripture that there were giants in the earth both *before and after* the flood and that they came from a union of fallen angels and the daughters of men" (*Dake's Annotated Reference Bible,* p. 63).

As discussed in Chapter One, Chedorlaomer, Esau, Caphtor, and the Ammonites (none of whom were known for godliness) all fought giants and defeated them handily.

The Zamzummim were defeated by the Ammonites through supernatural intervention. God must have said, "OK, Satan, go ahead and try again. This time I will destroy giants by helping anyone who will fight them, regardless of their standing with Me."

Satan's second attempt must have been a limited one, perhaps even one which God forbade almost as soon as it started. The offspring, however, continued to multiply over a five century period, and remnants remained until around 1000 B.C.—nearly a thousand years from the days when Chedorlaomer battled them (according to *The Open Bible).*

But I am getting ahead of myself. In the next chapter we will study about giant slayers and see how this message applies in such a timely way to each of us. Yes, my secretary was right when she asked if I was writing a book about slaying the giants in our lives.

Before we leave Chapter Two, however, let me quote from several translations to give you some variation of thought on Genesis 6:1-4:

"When mankind began to increase and to spread all over the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of the gods saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; so they took for themselves such women as they chose. But the Lord said, 'My life-giving spirit shall not remain in man for ever; he for his part is mortal flesh: he shall live for a hundred and twenty years.' In those days, and also afterwards, when the sons of the gods had intercourse with the daughters of men and got children by them, the Nephilim were on earth. They were the heroes of old, men of renown" (*The New English Bible).*

"Now a population explosion took place upon the earth. It was at this time that beings from the spirit world looked upon the beautiful earth women and took any they desired to be their wives. Then Jehovah said, "My Spirit must not forever be disgraced in man.

Wholly evil as he is. I will give him 120 years to mend his ways." In those days, and even afterwards, when the evil beings from the spirit world were

sexually involved with human women, their children became giants, of whom so many legends are told" (*The Living Bible).*

"When men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair, and they took wives of all they desired and chose. Then the Lord said, My Spirit shall not for ever dwell and strive with man, for he also is flesh; but his days shall yet be 120 years. There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God lived with the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown" (*The Amplified Bible).*

End Notes

1 Besides the obvious reasons that the "sons of God" are angels, as previously explained, there are several reasons added here why the "sons of God" could not have been Sethites who married "daughters of men" meaning women in the line of Cain. The argument proposed is that godly men married ungodly women and consequently produced a "monstrous" race!

First, there is no record that the line of Seth were designated "sons of God."

That Adam, Seth's father, was a "son of God" (Luke 3:38) is clear, but this title is never given to Seth, who is called "another seed instead of Abel" who came forth in Adam's "own likeness, after his image" (Genesis 4:25; 5:3). Adam was created by God; Seth was procreated by Adam.

Second, the line of Seth, recorded for us in Genesis 5, reveals only two men whose godliness is noteworthy (Enoch and Noah). That the line of Seth was especially devoted is unstated. In fact, all the Sethites, and there were many by the time of the Flood, perished except for Noah and his family. Far be it with God to "destroy the righteous with the wicked" (Genesis 18:23).

Third, a godly man and an ungodly woman (or vice-versa) do not produce a Nephil today. There are many examples where one of the parents is a believer and the other is not and their children are no better or worse in basic character (or lack of it) than other children.

Fourth, if the phrase "daughters of men" refers to women in the line of Cain, then how did the Nephilim reappear by Numbers 13:33? All the descendants of

Cain perished in the Flood and Moses says, "there were (Nephilim) in the earth in those days, *and also after that,* when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men..."

2 It is my opinion that the "woman" and the "two women" of Zechariah 5:5-11 are symbolic of the harlot, Babylon, and/or perhaps a veiled reference to Israel or to the church. I do not understand that they represent angels.

3 We need to keep in mind that it was Moses who wrote the first five books of the Bible and that he chose the word *tamiym* with reference to physical wholeness as in Exodus 12:5 where he instructed the Israelites concerning the Passover lamb that it had to be "without blemish" *(tamiym*) and in Leviticus 1:3 where he used *tamiym* again when he instructed the children of Israel that any sacrificial animal they chose from their cattle, herds, and flocks had to be free from physical defects. (In these references it was the Lord who spoke to Moses, who then spoke to Israel. Thus, the use of *tamiym* was divinely sanctioned for reference to physical wholeness.) Noah was righteous morally and unblemished physically. All around him were people of mixed natures who were unjust and marred. "All flesh had corrupted his way" as women talked among themselves of the sensual pleasure these fallen angels gave them and of the large sons they produced. (I dislike the baseness of this statement, but it is obviously correct.)

Chapter Three

Slaying Giants

"And Ishbibenob...the giant...thought to have slain David. But Abishai...killed him " (2 Samuel 21:16,17).

Satan's first objective in propagating giants was to pollute the entire race of mankind, thereby preventing the coming of the Woman's Seed who God had promised, would crush his head. He came frightfully close to succeeding, but God, who is never late, caught the crafty one in his own craftiness and preserved a remnant of eight unblemished persons in the line of Seth. Every breathing creature, except those preserved in the Ark, perished in the Flood.

After the waters abated, Noah built an altar to the Lord on Mount Ararat. When God smelled the pleasing aroma of Noah's sacrifice He promised to destroy the earth never again with a flood. The devil, no doubt wise to this promise,

assigned a company of fallen angels to subdue women again, concentrating his efforts in that area of the earth which God would later give to Abraham and to his seed for a possession. The devil must have thought a second attempt with giants would be foolproof since the One who could not lie promised there would be no second Flood. After all, giants were far superior in size and strength compared to anyone of the Noahic line.

It's important at this point to remember how Moses explained that there were giants on the earth, both before and after the Flood, as a result of the angelic/human union: **"There were giants in the earth in those days (pre-43 Flood); and also after that (post-Flood), when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men..."** (Genesis 6:4).

It is noteworthy that giants, so far as we have been able to ascertain, dwelt in and around the Mid-East in the centuries following the Flood. The reasoning behind this second attempt may have been to populate the whole of that area with nations of giants in order to prevent Shem's descendants from realizing their national destiny. Just how much Satan knew of the divine plan is a mystery, but it seems he realized to some extent how important that part of the earth was to God's purposes.

Had this second effort proved successful it would have kept not only Israel out of the picture, but the whole human race as well inasmuch as the Hope of Israel, the Lamb of God, could not have come. Mankind would have been irretrievably lost!

Thus, we see that there is more to this subject than what first meets the eye.

It is true that giants were not Satan's only attempt to thwart God's redemptive purpose, but they were one of his tools. What many fail to realize, as we will see in this chapter, is that it was the fear of giants that caused a forty year delay of Israel's possession of their Promised Land.

Once Joshua entered Canaan, however, the giants never proved a great obstacle. Anyone, it seems, could kill them, as aged Caleb demonstrated at Hebron, which was formerly called "the city of Arba"—the giant father of Anak.

Hundreds of years before Israel entered the Promised Land, in fact during the time of Abraham, races of giants were an established fact in the land God would later give to the seed of Abraham. By the time Israel entered the land (over four

hundred years later) the giants lived in strong, walled cities and were so huge they gave Israel the famous "grasshopper complex" so often talked about today.

Undoubtedly it was the devil's desire to bully Israel into giving up any attempt to take the Promised Land. The Bible clearly states that it was the enormous stature of the Palestinian giants that intimidated ten of the twelve spies commissioned by Moses to search out the land. They reported back to Moses and the children of Israel with these glum words:

"We came to the land whither thou sent us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey...Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there...We be not able to go up against this people; for they are stronger than we...and all the people we saw in it are men of a great stature.

And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight" (Numbers 13:27,28,31,32,33).

The congregation of Israel, overcome with fear and unbelief, **"lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night"** (Numbers 14:1). They accepted the majority report of the ten spies who refused to be persuaded of God's ability to bring them into the land. The minority report of Joshua and Caleb was not only rejected, but its messengers would have met with stoning had not **"the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle"** (Numbers 14:10).

God was grieved with Israel. He threatened to wipe out the whole nation and start over with Moses, but the meekest man on the face of the whole earth interceded for them once again. Yahweh reduced the sentence from total annihilation to one year of wilderness wandering for every day they had searched the land (read Numbers 14:11-45).

Forty years later, shortly before the death of Moses, Israel defeated Og, a huge giant, and all his kingdom of 60 cities in Bashan (as we studied in our first chapter). It seems as though God would not permit the new generation to enter the land until they had slain at least one giant and his forces.

Giants, Anyone?

As we have seen, a primary reason Israel refused to believe that they could

conquer Palestine was due to "the men of great stature" that inhabited it. The ten spies exaggerated when they said "all the men we saw in it" were giants because the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, and others were not, so far as we know, giants. But there were at least six nations of giants in the Promised Land, as we studied in Chapter One, and they were indeed, "terrible to the sight" as Josephus later recorded. The Rephaim, Anakim, Zamzummim, Emim, Avim, and Horim were giant peoples with strong, walled cities. They are referred to Deuteronomy two as "great, many, and tall."

Just how accurate Joshua and Caleb were in declaring that the giants' "defence is departed from them" could not have been known apart from revelation. Centuries earlier God had set Himself against giants, *al* giants and enabled any who were willing to fight them to conquer them.

As early as Genesis 14 we are told how the ancient monarch, Chedorlaomer, fought against and "smote" the Rephaim, the Zuzim (Zamzummim) and the Emim. Yet Chedorlaomer (whose name is recorded in secular history) and the kings who were allied with him, were slaughtered by a tiny band numbering only 319 in all! The leader of this group, it should be quickly noted, was none other than Abraham with whom God had special plans. Indeed, Abraham's victory over Chedorlaomer was a military miracle as Melchizedek noted when he blessed the most high God who delivered Abraham's enemies into his hand, (Chedorlaomer had ruled over much of that region for a dozen years).

The fact that Chedorlaomer had been successful against giants before his "slaughter" at the hands of Abraham, as Hebrews 7:1 records it, proves that giants were not the invincible fighting force they should have been in a time when combat was primarily based on brute strength. If Chedorlaomer, who was not otherwise divinely favored, found them defeatable (as did Esau and Caphtor according to Deuteronomy 2:22,23) the giants must not have been as capable as they should have been.

Why not? The answer is quite simple: God set Himself against giants and helped anyone who was willing to fight them. Moses makes this clear in the second chapter of Deuteronomy. The Ammonites who were descendants of Lot through incest and frequently at odds with Israel fought against the Zamzummim giants, but "the Lord destroyed them before them" (vs. 21). The children of Esau, whose father profaned his birthright, fought against the Horim giants and succeeded because the Lord

"destroyed the Horim from before them" (vs. 22). Finally, the descendants of Caphtor, about whom little is given in the Bible, fought against the Avim giants and "destroyed them" (vs. 23). (Note: *The Amplified Bible* in these verses of Deuteronomy 2 consistently emphasizes their "giant-like" stature.)

The thought behind all of this is simply that God, who was irreconcilably opposed to giants, gave supernatural help to any who would fight them. This does not mean that He made a covenant with the Edomites or the Caphtorim, any more than He favored Chedorlaomer, whom He later enabled Abraham to destroy. In fact, the Ammonites and the children of Esau, (who are also called "the inhabitants of Mt. Seir") were defeated centuries later when they challenged Jehoshaphat (*see* 2 Chronicles 20).

The thought is simply, and I repeat it once more for the emphasis it deserves, is that Yahweh gave supernatural assistance (even going before the Ammonites) to any group who would fight giants.

His desire, of course, was to use Israel to exterminate all the giant races of Palestine, but due to their fearfulness He could not. During the forty years they wandered in the wilderness, dying in their unbelief, He used other Palestinian nations to destroy three of the six giant nations.

The glory and fame that would have gone to Yahweh for destroying the Zamzummim, Horim, and Avim was doubtless ascribed to the various gods of the Ammonites, Edomites, and Caphtorim. They were completely unaware that the God of Israel had enabled them to defeat and even obliterate these particular tribes of giants.

In fact, the tone of the first two chapters of Deuteronomy seems to be one of chiding. Moses was recounting all the ways Yahweh had guided Israel and all the times they had rebelled against Him. When Moses recounts how the Ammonites, the children of Esau (Edomites), and the Caphtorim had destroyed three of the six nations of giants (during the 40 years Israel wandered in the wilderness) he speaks in a reproving tone as if to say: "See how easily these giants were destroyed? Look what your fathers could have done had they not disbelieved God's promise to give us our inheritance."

All my life I have heard numerous messages on Israel's failure to enter the land of promise (Hebrews 3:7-4:11 is frequently quoted). Good points were always

emphasized, but I cannot recall one teaching that stressed how Israel's "evil heart of unbelief' which resulted in their failure to "enter into His rest" was primarily, as the Numbers 13,14 text brings out, *their fear of giants!*

The Exodus generation's unbelief was particularly inexcusable. They had seen the Egyptians sorely plagued and the Red Sea parted by the mighty power of Yahweh.

He had performed so many miracles in their behalf that overcoming giants should have been hardly worth considering (*see* Numbers 14:11,22).

The Key To Victory

May this tragic example serve as a powerful lesson for us today since **"we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"** (Ephesians 6:12).

We face giants in the spiritual world; fallen angels who are arrayed against the church and its mission. These principalities and rulers of darkness are the same type of beings who fathered physical giants long ago.

Usually the church is no better than Israel. We quake in fear of our enemies and habitually succumb to compromise. Our history indicates that we, too, would rather go back to the desert rather than pressing forward into our inheritance. Jesus said, ***". .the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force"*** (Matthew 11:12).

The word for "violence" here is *biazo* which means "to use force." Of course we are not to use force with men, but that would be useless anyhow since we do not wrestle them. We do wrestle against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness who align themselves against each generation of the church and before whom the church has continually cowed as Israel did before the Palestinian giants.

It is time to become violently aggressive in taking our kingdom possessions. We must learn that nothing in Satan's realm shall by any means hurt us if we reverently fear the Lord and walk in His way. The Body of Christ must begin to wrestle—apply direct pressure—on Satan's generals and captains. We, unlike Israel, must learn our authority and exercise it!

In fact, *Israel never ful y learned their authority over giants.*

Individuals learned and exercised their authority, but the nation as a whole never did. **And yet there was not one time that a giant was ever victorious over them!** How true it is that the giants did not defeat Israel; their own unbelief defeated them.

David Walked In Victory

To reinforce this fact notice how the army of Israel, 430 years after the evil report, responded to Goliath's challenge *(see* 1 Samuel 17): **"When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid"** (vs. 11).

Surely Saul and his army knew Israel's history well enough to know it was fear of giants that delayed their entrance into the Promised Land by forty years. Surely they knew of Joshua's victorious campaign against the Anakim and Caleb's triumph at Hebron, an ancient giant stronghold.

But face to face with Goliath, a remnant member of the Anakim, who like his brothers had been hired by the Philistines to intimidate Israel, the entire army melted:

"And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid" (vs. 24).

Most Sunday School teachers present Saul's response to Goliath as his only natural recourse. Yet had he been in fellowship with God, as David was, he would have had the inner courage to face Goliath and the Hebrew women would have given Saul the pre-eminence in their celebration songs rather than David.

It was not because David had been anointed by Samuel that God granted him victory over this particular giant. As this shepherd explained to King Saul, he had learned to walk in victory through "on the job" training. At two different times a bear and a lion had threatened the flock and David, moved by concern for the sheep rather than for his own personal safety, was divinely enabled to slay them. David confidently asserted that these experiences had prepared him for Goliath who "shall be as one of them" (vs. 36).

Here's another key to David's victory. He was moved by the honor of God to

accept the giant's challenge: *"Is there not a cause?" he* reprovingly questioned Eliab (vs. 29).

David's example instilled courage into the hearts of his servants who years later slew Goliath's brothers. In this regard David typifies the Son of David. Jesus, our example, overcame Satan and gave us His authority so we can conquer the devil's cohorts. We have the promise,

"And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you"** (Romans 16:20).

Giant slaying (or, demon bashing) is not reserved for a selected few who are the most mature in Christ. It is interesting to note that Goliath's brothers were slain by Abishai, Sibbechai, Elhanan, and David's nephew Jonathan (*see* 2 Samuel 21:15-22).

Not one of these giants slayers was listed among David's three mightiest warriors. Abishai, the highest ranking of the four, was listed in a second group of three mighty men yet "he attained not unto the first three." None of the other giant slayers even made it into the third group consisting of thirty one honorable warriors. It would be worth your time to study 2 Samuel 23:8-39 about David's "mighty men" (#1368). The Hebrew is *gibborim* and means "one who magnifies himself, who is bold, audacious"

(Gesenius). God wants us to be bold and fearless, magnifying Him, as we attack our "giants." David's mighty men had no problem with them or any enemy they faced, and neither shall we who are victorious through Christ.

I am not saying that it was foolish in the natural realm to disregard giants. Obviously they were massive in size and possessed immense strength. On the other hand, however, they had been shown to be inferior fighters again and again as God aided their enemies. No doubt there were many tales of various battles in the days of Joshua where mighty giants were killed. As I pointed out, there is not one record in Joshua of a nation of giants being victorious over the Israelites. The God who brought down Jericho's walls mightily enabled the Hebrews any time they fought giants.

In the same way He will enable believers today to attack principalities and powers (who indeed are mightier than we are in our own strength) and through His power **"bring to nought things that are"** because He uses **"the weak**

things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" (1 Corinthians 1:27-28). The gates of hell shall not prevail against us!

With the death of Goliath's brothers giants became extinct and Satan has either 1) given up on future attempts to produce a Nephilim race again, or 2) God has forbidden Satan to attempt it ever again. One thing is certain: *There are no literal giants today.*

There are satanic principalities arrayed against the church, indeed, which are far more powerful than were physical giants. The "giants" of today have cowed the church into fearful submission allowing a sort of peaceful co-existence provided we leave them alone.

The church, on the other hand, is legally far superior to Israel in her spiritual authority, as our Head has been given all power in heaven and earth (see Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:19-23).

When we, the Body of Christ, take up our weapons which are supernaturally activated to the pulling down of strongholds, we will conquer the spirit rulers of darkness with amazing victory (*see* 2 Corinthians 10:2-6). Other generations of the church have died in the wilderness of traditional unbelief. May this generation of believers **"possess their possessions"** (Obadiah 17).

What are the "giants" you face? Go forward boldly!

God has given you defensive armor and offensive weapons (*see* Ephesians 6:10-17; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

Avail yourself of all God's battle provisions and nothing shall hurt you, no, not by any means! "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

God's Promise

Now let's go back to our historical study in the Old Testament and look centuries earlier before David's time, during the period known as "The Conquest" when Joshua was leading Israel into Canaan.

Shortly before Joshua entered the land of giants, Yahweh promised him, **"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I**

was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage..." (Joshua 1:5,6).

There is no way of estimating how many giants Joshua personally killed, besides the multitudes destroyed by his armies. Under his leadership the Israelites **"cut off the Anakim from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities. There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained. So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel"** (Joshua 11:21-23).

It was some of the bones of these Anakim killed in the time of Joshua that Josephus viewed almost 1500 years later!

Caleb's Valiant Spirit

Forty five years after Caleb's initial faith declaration, recorded in Numbers 13:30 and 14:6-9, he approached his old friend Joshua, the only other survivor of what became known as "the wilderness generation" and asked Joshua for his personal inheritance.

In Caleb's moving speech he reminded Joshua how Moses had promised Caleb and his children a permanent inheritance:

"Forty years old was I when Moses the Servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to scout out the land; and I brought him report as it was in my heart.

But my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt; *yet I wholly followed the Lord my God.* And Moses swore on that day, Surely the land on which your feet have walked shall be an inheritance to you and your children always, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God. And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years since the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while the Israelites wandered in the wilderness; and now, lo, I am this day eighty-five years old. *Yet I am as strong today as I was the day*

***Moses sent me;* as my strength was then, so is my strength now, for war, and**

to go out, and to come in. So *now give me this hill country,* of which the Lord spoke that day; for you heard then how the [giant-like] Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified; *if the Lord will be with me, I shall drive them out,* as the Lord said. Then Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb son of Jephunneh for an inheritance" (Joshua 14:7-13, *The Amplified Bible).*

It turned out, to no surprise, that Yahweh was with this valiant warrior who drove from Hebron **"the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak"** (Joshua 15:14). These three giants were no doubt huge and powerful as a common saying had circulated about them for years, **"...of whom thou hast heard say, Who can stand before the children of Anak!"** (Deuteronomy 9:2).

Anak, whose father, Arba, had first conquered and settled Hebron, became a mighty giant king and father of the often mentioned Anakim. His three sons, like himself, must have been highly respected and greatly feared.. but not by Caleb. He feared only Yahweh and lived a life of obedience to His commands, therefore, he, at the age of 85, was able to defeat these three giants and all their hosts.

Like Father, Like Daughter

What I am about to say now really blesses me because I have two little girls and, of course, deeply desire the victory of God in their lives. During Bible story time I have told them that they, too, can be bold like Caleb's daughter, Achsah.

Achsah had the same valiant spirit as her father. She followed his example of spunk and courage. She saw a field near Hebron that she liked, and just like her father had laid claim to his inheritance before Joshua, so she did with Caleb.

"And it came to pass, as she came unto him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wouldest thou? Who answered, *Give me a blessing;* for thou hast given me a south land (a desert area); give me also springs of water" (Joshua 15:18,19).

Caleb was so moved by her kindred spirit that he rewarded her with not only the upper springs, but also gave her the lower springs, as part of his wedding present to her.

In fact, Achsah's marriage was quite interesting. Her husband had to earn her hand by valor. Let me explain...

It was the custom in that day for a father to pick his daughter's husband and bold Caleb didn't want a coward for a son-in-law. So, he thought of a way to screen potential husbands,

"And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjath-sepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife" (Joshua 15:16).

Othniel was the only challenger and took the city.

True to his word Caleb gave Achsah to Othniel.

Afterwards, and at her husband's urging, Achsah made her claim for springs of water. Just as Joshua and Caleb had protested to the congregation of Israel more than forty years earlier, so they had lived to see their words fulfilled:

"Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not" (Numbers 14:9).

In like manner, may the Captain of our salvation see these words fulfilled in us:

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments.
Introduction.
1 Did Giants Ever Exist?.
2 What Were Giants and How Did They Originate?.
3 Slaying Giants.