

~BASHAN (414)

(Ba'shan) [possibly, Fertile, or Stoneless Plain]

- A large region East of the Sea of Galilee. The approximate boundaries of **Bashan** were Mount Hermon on the North, the mountainous region of **Mount Hauran**, **Jebel ed Druz**, on the East, Gilead on the South, and the hills bordering the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee on the West.
- Accordingly Yehowah our God gave into our hand also Og the king of **Bashan** and all his people, and we kept striking him until he had no survivor remaining. (**Deuteronomy 3:3**)
- And we went capturing all his cities at that particular time. There proved to be no town that we did not take from them, sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in **Bashan**. (**Deuteronomy 3:4**)
- All these were cities fortified with a high wall, doors and bar, aside from very many rural towns. (**Deuteronomy 3:5**)
- However, we devoted them to destruction, just as we had done to Sihon the king of Heshbon, in devoting every city to destruction, men, women and little children. (**Deuteronomy 3:6**)
- And all the domestic animals and the spoil of the cities we took as plunder for ourselves. (**Deuteronomy 3:7**)
- And we proceeded to take at that particular time the land from the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were in the region of the Jordan, from the torrent valley of Arnon as far as Mount Hermon. (**Deuteronomy 3:8**)
- The Sidonians used to call Hermon Sirion, and the Amorites used to call it Senir. (**Deuteronomy 3:9**)
- All the cities of the tableland and all Gilead and all **Bashan** as far as Salecah and Edrei, the cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. (**Deuteronomy 3:10**)
- For only Og the king of **Bashan** remained of what was left of the Rephaim. Look! His bier was a bier of iron. Is it not in Rabbah

- of the sons of Ammon? Nine cubits is its length, and four cubits its width, by the cubit of a man. ([Deuteronomy 3:11](#))
- And we took possession of this land at that particular time, from Aroer, which is by the torrent valley of Arnon, and half of the mountainous region of Gilead, and its cities I have given to the Reubenites and the Gadites. ([Deuteronomy 3:12](#))
 - And the rest of Gilead and all **Bashan** of the kingdom of Og I have given to the half tribe of Manasseh. All the region of Argob of all **Bashan**, is it not called the land of the Rephaim? ([Deuteronomy 3:13](#))
 - Jair the son of Manasseh took all the region of Argob as far as the boundary of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and he proceeded to call those villages of **Bashan** by his own name, Havvoth-jair, to this day. ([Deuteronomy 3:14](#))
 - And the territory of Og the king of **Bashan**, of what was left over of the Rephaim, who dwelt in Ashtaroth and Edrei. ([Joshua 12:4](#))
 - And who ruled in Mount Hermon and in Salecah and in all **Bashan**, as far as the boundary of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and half of Gilead, to the territory of Sihon the king of Heshbon. ([Joshua 12:5](#))
 - **Bashan** was located mainly on a high plateau, with an average height of about 600 meters (2,000 feet). The land is generally flat, though containing some mountain ridges, and is of volcanic origin with much hard black basalt rock, which provides good retention of moisture. The soil is a mixture of tufa and red-brown earth.
 - Water and melted snow flowing down from Mount Hermon helped to turn the entire region into an excellent agricultural area. The great fertility of this plain made the area a rich granary and provided fine pasture lands. This, in turn, contributed to the production of splendid strains of cattle and sheep. The bulls of **Bashan** and its male sheep were the subjects of song and poetry and were symbols of richness, strength, and prosperity.
 - Butter of the herd and milk of the flock together with the fat of rams, and male sheep, the breed of **Bashan**, and he-goats together with the kidney fat of wheat, and the blood of the grape you kept drinking as wine. ([Deuteronomy 32:14](#))

- The flesh of mighty one's you will eat, and the blood of the chieftains of the earth you will drink, rams, young male sheep, and he-goats, young bulls, the fatlings of **Bashan** all of them. (**Ezekiel 39:18**)
- Many young bulls have surrounded me, the powerful one's of **Bashan** themselves have got around me. (**Psalms 22:12**)
- The plains of **Bashan** appear to have been, in the main, treeless, but the mountain ridges were well wooded and contained massive trees, probably oaks, which are still to be found in that area today. In prophecy, these trees are used as symbols of great loftiness.
- And upon all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up and upon all the massive trees of **Bashan**. (**Isaiah 2:13**)
- Open up your doors, O Lebanon, that a fire may devour among your cedars. (**Zechariah 11:1**)
- Howl, O juniper tree, for the cedar has fallen, because the majestic one's themselves have been despoiled! Howl, you massive trees of **Bashan**, for the impenetrable forest has come down! (**Zechariah 11:2**)
- Out of juniper timbers from Senir they built for you all the planks. A cedar from Lebanon they took to make a mast upon you. (**Ezekiel 27:5**)
- Out of massive trees from **Bashan** they made your oars. Your prow they made with ivory in cypress wood, from the islands of Kittim. (**Ezekiel 27:6**)
- Indicates that the Phoenician boat builders of Tyre used the juniper trees of Senir for their planks and the tall cedars of Lebanon for their masts, but they fashioned their powerful oars from the sturdy trees of **Bashan**.
- **Bashan's** fertility and productivity are doubtless the reason for its being associated with other productive areas such as Carmel and Lebanon.
- And I will bring Israel back to his pasture ground, and he will certainly graze on Carmel and on **Bashan**, and in the

- mountainous region of Ephraim and of Gilead his soul will be satisfied. (**Jeremiah 50:19**)
- The land has gone mourning, has withered away. Lebanon has become abashed. It has moldered. Sharon has become like the desert plain, and **Bashan** and Carmel are shaking off their leaves. (**Isaiah 33:9**)
 - Jeremiah links the heights of **Bashan** with Lebanon as a vantage point from which to view the calamity due to come upon the land of the Israelites because of their forsaking Yehowah.
 - Go up onto Lebanon and cry out, and on **Bashan** let your voice out. And cry out from Abarim, because all those intensely loving you have been broken. (**Jeremiah 22:20**)
 - The mention of the mountain of God and the mountain of peaks of **Bashan**, at,
 - The mountainous region of **Bashan** is a mountain of God, the mountainous region of **Bashan** is a mountain of peaks. (**Psalms 68:15**)
 - Why do you, O you mountains of peaks, keep watching enviously the mountain that God has desired for himself to dwell in? Even Yehowah himself will reside there forever. (**Psalms 68:16**)
 - May refer to the mountainous region of **Mount Hauran**, **Jebel ed Druz**. Zalmon mentioned in,
 - When the Almighty One scattered abroad the kings in it, it began to snow in Zalmon. (**Psalms 68:14**)
 - May have been its highest peak.
 - The region of **Bashan** apparently first enters the Bible record at,
 - And in the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer came, and also the kings who were with him, and they inflicted defeats on the Rephaim in Ashterothkarnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shavehkiriathaim. (**Genesis 14:5**)
 - In the reference to the Rephaim or giants, in Ashteroth-karnaim, who were defeated by the invading kings of Abraham's time **before**

1933 B.C.E. At the time of the Israelite invasion circa **1473 B.C.E.**, Og, the king of **Bashan** and the last remaining one of the giant-like men of that area, was defeated and slain, and the land was occupied by Israel.

- After that they turned and went up by the way of **Bashan**. At this Og the king of **Bashan** came out to meet them, he and all his people, to the battle of Edrei. (**Numbers 21:33**)
- Yehowah now said to Moses; Do not be afraid of him, for into your hand I shall certainly give him and all his people and his land, and you must do to him just as you did to Sihon, the king of the Amorites, who used to dwell in Heshbon. (**Numbers 21:34**)
- So they went striking him and his sons and all his people, until there was no survivor remaining to him, and they went taking possession of his land. (**Numbers 21:35**)
- Then we turned and went up by the way of **Bashan**. At this Og the king of **Bashan** came on out, he and all his people, to meet us in battle at Edrei. (**Deuteronomy 3:1**)
- So Yehowah said to me; Do not be afraid of him, for I shall certainly give him and all his people and his land into your hand, and you must do to him just as you did to Sihon the king of the Amorites, who was dwelling in Heshbon. (**Deuteronomy 3:2**)
- Accordingly Yehowah our God gave into our hand also Og the king of Bashan and all his people, and we kept striking him until he had no survivor remaining. (**Deuteronomy 3:3**)
- For only Og the king of **Bashan** remained of what was left of the **Rephaim**. Look! His bier was a bier of iron. Is it not in Rabbah of the sons of Ammon? Nine cubits is its length, and four cubits its width, by the cubit of a man. (**Deuteronomy 3:11**)
- All the royal realm of Og in **Bashan**, who reigned in Ashtaroth and in Edrei, he it was who remained of what was left of the **Rephaim**, and Moses went striking them and dispossessing them. (**Joshua 13:12**)
- The tribe of Manasseh received **Bashan** as its inheritance, although it appears that a southern portion of it was allotted to the tribe of Gad.

- Further, Moses made a gift to the half tribe of Manasseh, and it came to be that of the half tribe of the sons of Manasseh by their families. (**Joshua 13:29**)
- And their territory came to be from Mahanaim all of **Bashan**, all the royal realm of Og the king of **Bashan**, and all the tent villages of Jair that are in **Bashan**, sixty towns. (**Joshua 13:30**)
- And half of Gilead, and Ashtaroth and Edrei, the cities of the royal realm of Og in **Bashan**, went to the sons of Machir the son of Manasseh, to half of the sons of Machir by their families. (**Joshua 13:31**)
- And the lot came to be for the tribe of Manasseh, because he was Joseph's firstborn, for Machir the firstborn of Manasseh, the father of Gilead, because he was one who proved to be a man of war, and Gilead and **Bashan** came to belong to him. (**Joshua 17:1**)
- And there were ten allotments falling to Manasseh apart from the land of Gilead and **Bashan**, which were on the other side of the Jordan. (**Joshua 17:5**)
- As for the sons of Gad in front of them, they dwelt in the land of **Bashan** as far as Salecah. (**1 Chronicles 5:11**)
- And they continued to dwell in Gilead, in **Bashan** and in its dependent towns and in all the pasture grounds of Sharon as far as their terminations. (**1 Chronicles 5:16**)
- As for the sons of the half tribe of Manasseh, they dwelt in the land from **Bashan** to Baal-hermon and Senir and Mount Hermon. They themselves became numerous. (**1 Chronicles 5:23**)
- The principal cities of **Bashan** were, Ashtaroth, a city of Og and later a Levite city, Edrei, the frontier city where Israel defeated Og, Golan, which also became a Levite city and one of the three cities of refuge East of the Jordan, and Salecah.
- At that time Moses proceeded to set apart three cities on the side of the Jordan toward the rising of the sun. (**Deuteronomy 4:41**)
- For the manslayer to flee there who slays his fellow without knowing it, while he was not hating him formerly, and he must

- flee to one of these cities and live. (**Deuteronomy 4:42**)
- Namely, Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland for the Reubenites, and Ramoth in Gilead for the Gadites, and Golan in **Bashan** for the Manassites. (**Deuteronomy 4:43**)
 - And of all that he did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, namely, Sihon the king of Heshbon and Og the king of **Bashan**, who was in Ashtaroth. (**Joshua 9:10**)
 - And the territory of Og the king of **Bashan**, of what was left over of the Rephaim, who dwelt in Ashtaroth and Edrei. (**Joshua 12:4**)
 - And who ruled in Mount Hermon and in Salecah and in all **Bashan**, as far as the boundary of the Geshurites and the Maacathites, and half of Gilead, to the territory of Sihon the king of Heshbon. (**Joshua 12:5**)
 - And in the region of the Jordan, at Jericho, toward the east they gave Bezer in the wilderness on the tableland out of the tribe of Reuben, and Ramoth in Gilead out of the tribe of Gad, and Golan in **Bashan** out of the tribe of Manasseh. (**Joshua 20:8**)
 - These became the cities appointed for all the sons of Israel and for the alien resident who resides as an alien in their midst, for anyone to flee there who fatally strikes a soul unintentionally, that he may not die by the hand of the avenger of blood until his standing before the assembly. (**Joshua 20:9**)
 - Thus the sons of Israel gave the Levites the cities with their pasture grounds. (**1 Chronicles 6:64**)
 - And to the sons of Gershom they gave from the family of the half tribe of Manasseh Golan in **Bashan** with its pasture grounds and Ashtaroth with its pasture grounds. (**1 Chronicles 6:71**)
 - In the region of Argob alone there were 60 walled cities, and ruins of ancient towns still dot the entire area today.
 - Accordingly Yehowah our God gave into our hand also Og the king of **Bashan** and all his people, and we kept striking him until he had no survivor remaining. (**Deuteronomy 3:3**)

- And we went capturing all his cities at that particular time. There proved to be no town that we did not take from them, sixty cities, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in **Bashan**. (**Deuteronomy 3:4**)
- All these were cities fortified with a high wall, doors and bar, aside from very many rural towns. (**Deuteronomy 3:5**)

See Also ARGOB 2

- During Solomon's reign one of the 12 commissariat districts placed under deputies and assigned to provide food for the royal tables included **Bashan**.
- And Solomon had twelve deputies over all Israel, and they provided the king and his household with food. It would devolve upon each one to provide the food one month in the year. (**1 Kings 4:7**)
- The son of Geber, in Ramoth-gilead, he had the tent villages of Jair the son of Manasseh, which are in Gilead, he had the region of Argob, which is in **Bashan**, sixty large cities with wall and copper bar. (**1 Kings 4:13**)
- In the area East of the Jordan, the principal route from North to South, called the kings road, ran through **Bashan** at the city of Ashtaroth, and this fact, together with **Bashan's** great fertility and its proximity to Damascus, made it the goal of military conquest.
- King Hazael of Damascus captured **Bashan** during Jehu's reign circa **904-877 B.C.E**, but it was evidently recovered in the reign of Jehoash
- In those days Yehowah started to cut off Israel piece by piece, and Hazael kept striking them in all the territory of Israel. (**2 Kings 10:32**)
- From the Jordan toward the rising of the sun, all the land of Gilead, the Gadites and the Reubenites and the Manassites, from Aroer, which is by the torrent valley of Arnon, even Gilead and **Bashan**. (**2 Kings 10:33**)
- And Jehoash the son of Jehoahaz proceeded to take back again from the hand of Ben-hadad the son of Hazael the cities that he

- had taken from the hand of Jehoahaz his father in war. Three times Jehoash struck him down, and he got to recover the cities of Israel. (2 Kings 13:25)
- Or at least by the time of Jeroboam II, circa 844-804 B.C.E.
 - He it was that restored the boundary of Israel from the entering in of Hamath clear to the sea of the Arabah, according to the word of Yehowah the God of Israel who spoke by means of his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet that was from Gath-hepher. (2 Kings 14:25)
 - Tiglath-pileser III of Assyria overran the whole area in the reign of Pekah, circa 778-759 B.C.E.
 - In the days of Pekah the king of Israel, Tiglath-pileser the king of Assyria came in and proceeded to take Ijon and Abel-beth-maacah and Janoah and Kedesh and Hazor and Gilead and Galilee, all the land of Naphtali, and to carry them into exile in Assyria. (2 Kings 15:29)
 - Consequently the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of Pul the king of Assyria even the spirit of Tilgath-pilneser the king of Assyria, so that he took into exile those of the Reubenites and of the Gadites and of the half tribe of Manasseh and brought them to Halah and Habor and Hara and the river Gozan to continue until this day. (1 Chronicles 5:26)
 - In postexilic times **Bashan** came under Greek control and later became one of the major wheat granaries of the Roman Empire. It was divided into four districts, and with the exception of the Northeast district called Trachonitis, these districts preserved to some extent original names from the area, the district of Gaulanitis in the West drew its name from Golan, Auranitis in the South from Hauran, and central Batanaea from Bashan. Aside from a reference to Trachonitis
 - In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was district ruler of Galilee, but Philip his brother was district ruler of the country of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was district ruler of Abilene. (Luke 3:1)

See Also HAURAN

