

## 12.34 Victory over Sihon and Og (Numbers 21:10–35; 33:43–47; Deuteronomy 2:16–37; 3:1–11)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows.

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that should not be read aloud. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional needed materials.
- A one-cubit measuring rod or tape of either 18 or 22 inches
- Nancy Ganz’s treatment of this story is excellent in *Numbers: A Commentary for Children*, published by Shepherd Press, 2006. Ideas or quotes from this source will be noted by (Ganz).

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Tips and terms are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *plunder/spoil*: the rewards of war left behind by the conquered people
- *to devote to destruction*: to destroy utterly all the inhabitants of an area

### Scripture: (ESV)

Deuteronomy 2:16 “So as soon as all the men of war had perished and were dead from among the people, 17 the Lord said to me, 18 ‘Today you are to cross the border of Moab at Ar. 19 And when you approach the territory of the people of Ammon, do not harass them or contend with them, for I will not give you any of the land of the people of Ammon as a possession, because I have given it to the sons of Lot for a possession.’ 20 (It is also counted as a land of Rephaim. Rephaim formerly lived there—but the Ammonites call them Zamzummim— 21 a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim; but the Lord destroyed them before the Ammonites, and they dispossessed them and settled in their place, 22 as he did for the people of Esau, who live in Seir, when he destroyed the Horites before them and they dispossessed them and settled in their place even to this day. . . .) 24 ‘Rise up, set out on your journey and go over the Valley of the Arnon. Behold, I have given into your hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land. Begin to take possession, and contend with him in battle. 25 This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the peoples who are under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.’

26 “So I sent messengers from the wilderness of Kedemoth to Sihon the king of Heshbon, with words of peace, saying, 27 ‘Let me pass through your land. I will go only by the road; I will turn aside neither to the right nor to the left. 28 You shall sell me food for money, that I may eat, and give me water for money, that I may drink. Only let me pass through on foot, 29 as the sons of Esau who live in Seir and the Moabites who live in Ar did for me, until I go over the Jordan into the land that the Lord our God is giving to us.’ 30 But Sihon the king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him, for the Lord your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that he might give him into your hand, as he is this day. 31 And the Lord said to me, ‘Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land over to you. Begin to take possession, that you may occupy his land.’

32 Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Jahaz. 33 And the Lord our God gave him over to us, and we defeated him and his sons and all his people. 34 And we captured all his cities at that time and devoted to destruction every city, men, women, and children. We left no survivors. 35 Only the livestock we took as spoil for ourselves, with the plunder of the cities that we captured.

36 From Aroer, which is on the edge of the Valley of the Arnon, and from the city that is in the valley, as far as Gilead, there was not a city too high for us. The Lord our God gave all into our hands. 37 Only to the land of the sons of Ammon you did not draw near, that is, to all the banks of the river Jabbok and the cities of the hill country, whatever the Lord our God had forbidden us.

Numbers 21:10 And the people of Israel . . . set out from Obboth and camped at Iye-abarim, in the wilderness that is opposite Moab, toward the sunrise. 12 From there they set out and camped in the Valley of Zered. 13 From there they set out and camped on the other side of the Arnon, which is in the wilderness that extends from

the border of the Amorites, for the Arnon is the border of Moab, between Moab and the Amorites. 14 Therefore it is said in the Book of the Wars of the Lord,

“Waheb in Suphah, and the valleys of the Arnon, 15 and the slope of the valley that extends to the seat of Ar, and leans to the border of Moab.”

16 And from there they continued to Beer; that is the well of which the Lord said to Moses, “Gather the people together, so that I may give them water.” 17 Then Israel sang this song:

“Spring up, O well!—Sing to it!— 18 the well that the princes made, that the nobles of the people dug, with the scepter and with their staffs.”

And from the wilderness they went on to Mattanah, 19 . . . to Nahaliel, . . . to Bamoth, 20 . . . to the valley lying in the region of Moab by the top of Pisgah that looks down on the desert.

21 Then Israel sent messengers to Sihon king of the Amorites, saying, 22 “Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into field or vineyard. We will not drink the water of a well. We will go by the King’s Highway until we have passed through your territory.” 23 But Sihon would not allow Israel to pass through his territory. He gathered all his people together and went out against Israel to the wilderness and came to Jahaz and fought against Israel. 24 And Israel defeated him with the edge of the sword and took possession of his land from the Arnon to the Jabbok, as far as to the Ammonites, for the border of the Ammonites was strong. 25 And Israel took all these cities, and Israel settled in all the cities of the Amorites, in Heshbon, and in all its villages. 26 For Heshbon was the city of Sihon the king of the Amorites, who had fought against the former king of Moab and taken all his land out of his hand, as far as the Arnon. 27 Therefore the ballad singers say,

“Come to Heshbon, let it be built; let the city of Sihon be established. 28 For fire came out from Heshbon, flame from the city of Sihon. It devoured Ar of Moab, and swallowed the heights of the Arnon. 29 Woe to you, Moab! You are undone, O people of Chemosh! He has made his sons fugitives, and his daughters captives, to an Amorite king, Sihon. 30 So we overthrew them; Heshbon, as far as Dibon, perished; and we laid waste as far as Nophah; fire spread as far as Medeba.”

31 Thus Israel lived in the land of the Amorites. 32 And Moses sent to spy out Jazer, and they captured its villages and dispossessed the Amorites who were there. 33 Then they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against them, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. 34 But the Lord said to Moses, “Do not fear him, for I have given him into your hand, and all his people, and his land. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.” 35 So they defeated him and his sons and all his people, until he had no survivor left. And they possessed his land.

33:43 And they set out from Punon and camped at Oboth. 44 . . . and camped at Iye-abarim, in the territory of Moab. 45 . . . and camped at Dibon-gad. 46 . . . and camped at Almon-diblathaim. 47 . . . and camped in the mountains of Abarim, before Nebo. 48 . . . and camped in the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho; 49 they camped by the Jordan from Beth-jeshimoth as far as Abel-shittim in the plains of Moab.

Deuteronomy 3:1 “Then we turned and went up the way to Bashan. And Og the king of Bashan came out against us, he and all his people, to battle at Edrei. 2 But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not fear him, for I have given him and all his people and his land into your hand. And you shall do to him as you did to Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived at Heshbon.’ 3 So the Lord our God gave into our hand Og also, the king of Bashan, and all his people, and we struck him down until he had no survivor left. 4 And we took all his cities at that time—there was not a city that we did not take from them—sixty cities, the whole region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan. 5 All these were cities fortified with high walls, gates, and bars, besides very many unwallled villages. 6 And we devoted them to destruction, as we did to Sihon the king of Heshbon, devoting to destruction every city, men, women, and children. 7 But all the livestock and the spoil of the cities we took as our plunder. 8 So we took the land at that time out of the hand of the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, from the Valley of the Arnon to Mount Hermon 9 (the Sidonians call Hermon Sirion, while the Amorites call it Senir), 10 all the cities of the tableland and all Gilead and all Bashan, as far as Salecah and Edrei, cities of the kingdom of Og in Bashan. 11 (For only Og the king of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. Behold,

his bed was a bed of iron. Is it not in Rabbah of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit.)

### **Introduction/Review:**

Since before the flood, giants had corrupted the land with their wickedness. [Show photo found below of a giant skeleton.] In fact, many people believe that the reason for the flood was the wickedness of these giants. Here is a chart to show the terms various people used for the giants of the land. [See chart at the end of this lesson.] Deuteronomy 2 tells us about various giant nations, where they were located, and who dispossessed them, *i.e.*, conquered them, made them move.

All the men of war had perished who had not believed God could conquer the land. Travel had been hard for Israel since they had to retrace their steps in order to skirt the country of Edom, for the Edomites had refused to let them cut across their country. God had said not to fight against Edom, Moab, and Ammon, for they were relatives of Israel through Esau and Lot.

### **Story:**

The people journeyed through wilderness on the east side of the Jordan River that extends from the border of the Amorites in the north to the land of Moab in the south [locate]. Moab had formerly possessed this area, but the Amorites had taken it.

God said to cross the Arnon River [locate east from the midpoint of the Dead Sea, #G-13 on the map found below], which was the border between Moab and the Amorites, and to go to a place named Beer, which means water.

#### ***No water***

Apparently, there was no water in this part of the wilderness, but we do not read about complaints from the people. Rather, God instructed, “Gather the people together, and I will give them water.” This is how He did it: He had the leaders dig, under Moses’ instruction, with their rods until they discovered water. ✓Perhaps a fountain spouted up. However it happened, it was an opportunity for praise to God; so the people made up and sang a song. Here it is: “Spring up, O well!—Sing to it!—the well that the princes made, that the nobles of the people dug, with the scepter and with their staffs.” [Teacher, if you wish to make up a spontaneous tune to this song, go ahead. If not, find my spontaneous tune below.]

#### ***Sihon of Heshbon***

The wilderness terrain led from valley to mountaintop. God said, “Rise up, set out on your journey and go over the Arnon River. I have given Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon [locate east of the northern tip of the Salt (Dead) Sea, #I-12], and his land into your hand. You will contend with him in battle and begin to take possession. This day I will begin to put the dread and fear of you on the peoples who are under the whole heaven, who shall hear the report of you and shall tremble and be in anguish because of you.”

With this encouragement from the Lord, Israel sent messengers to Sihon at Heshbon. The messengers offered Sihon the same conditions Moses had given to Edom: “Let me pass through your land. We will not turn aside into field or vineyard. We will not drink the water of a well. We will stay on the highway until we have passed through your territory.”

Sihon replied similarly to Edom—with an army. God had said not to fight with Edom whose army merely blocked the Israelites from entering its land. But God had said *not* to spare Sihon, whose army aggressively attacked Israel. Israel defeated him, took possession of his land from the Arnon River [locate] all the way to the River Jabbok [locate halfway between the Salt Sea and the Sea of Chinnereth (Galilee), #H-9], and devoted all to destruction, leaving no survivors. However, they took livestock as spoil along with the plunder of the cities that they captured. Moses later recalled, “There was not a city too high for us. The Lord our God gave all into our hands.”

Although Israel lived in these cities, mainly Heshbon, they continued their conquest further north. Moses

sent to spy out Jazer [locate north of Heshbon], and they captured its villages and dispossessed the Amorites who were there.

### ***Og of Bashan***

Then they turned and went up by the way to Bashan. [Some scholars pronounce this name buh-SHAHN. Locate this area directly east of the Sea of Chinnereth, #H-5.] Another Amorite giant king lived here. His name was Og. King Og and his people came to battle against Israel at Edrei [locate east of the southern tip of the Sea of Chinnereth, #L-6.]

Now, Og was a scary character. He was so big that he ✓needed a bed made of iron. It was nine cubits long [Teacher, measure on the floor with your cubit measuring rod or tape] and four cubits wide. That is 13.5 to 16.5 feet long and 6 to 7.3 feet wide, depending on which cubit measure—18-inch or 22-inch—is used. But the Lord reassured Moses, “Do not fear him, for I have given him and all his people and his land into your hand. you shall do to him as you did to Sihon the king of the Amorites.”

True to His word, as He always is, the Lord gave the giant king Og and all his people into the hand of Israel. They struck him down until he had no survivor left. And they took every single one of his cities—sixty cities. All these were cities fortified with high walls, gates, and bars. In addition, they devoted to destruction very many unwalled villages.

That gave Israel all the land east of the Jordan River [locate] from the Arnon River all the way to Mount Hermon [locate at #I-2] and including Gilead [locate area south of Bashan; not marked on this map]. God was beginning to give the promised land back to Israel.

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- We see Jesus:  
He is a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life: “Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:14).
- God keeps His promises. Having given land to Moab, Ammon, and Esau, He didn’t let even Israel take that land.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: city walls and gates; houses
- Snack: A giant chocolate chip cookie. Find a recipe at <https://www.melskitchencafe.com/giant-cookie/>.
- Younger students may count to 60 by ones, fives, and tens.
- With a cubit measuring rod (18–22 inches), measure Og’s bed: 9 cubits (13.5 feet) by 4 cubits (6 feet). (Feet given here are for the 18-inch cubit.)
- Review questions: (Game: Print the page with ten cities found below. Back with paper towel and cut out. Place cities on a flannel board. A student who answers a question correctly may “conquer” a city by taking it off the board.)
  1. What words of peace did Israel have for Sihon, king of Heshbon? [“Let me pass through your land. I will go only by the road; you shall sell me food and water for money.”]
  2. What did God say would now begin to happen in the land? [“You will possess the land.”]
  3. How did Sihon respond? What did he do? [Came out with an army to fight.]
  4. What was the outcome of Sihon’s attack? [Israel, by God’s hand, won the battle.]
  5. What was the name of the king of Bashan? [Og.]
  6. Describe Og. [He was a giant.]
  7. Describe Og’s bed. [It was at least 13.5 feet long and 6 feet wide.]

8. What did God say about Og before he attacked Israel? [“Do not fear him, for I have given him into your hand, and all his people, and his land.”]
9. How many cities did Israel conquer in Og’s territory? [Sixty.]

**Memory Verse[s]:**

- Exodus 20:1–17. An enlarged copy of the words, the “Exodus 20:1–17” song sheet, and motions are in Lesson 12.15 or on the “Lessons” and “Songs” pages at [teachingthebibleto kids.org](http://teachingthebibleto kids.org). “Stop! It’s the Law,” a song that teaches only the basic Ten Commandments, is found on the same “Songs” page.

**Handwork:**

- Make a paper bed from a rectangular piece of paper. Students may write, “God gave victory,” before cutting. See easy instructions at <https://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/kidscraftsactivitiesblog/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/pattern-04.png>.

**spoil/plunder**

**devote to destruction**

# TERMS FOR GIANTS

Name	Location	Dispossessed by—
<b>Rephaim</b>	northwest Canaan	
<b>Zamzummim</b> “buzzers”	Ammon(?)	Ammonites
<b>Anakim</b>	south Canaan near Hebron	
<b>Horites</b>	Seir	Esau/Edom
<b>Avvim</b>	Philistia	Caphtorim Egypt(?)
<b>Amorites/ Canaanites</b>	all of Canaan	
<b>Emim</b> “terrors”	Moab	
<b>Nephilim</b> “mighty men”		



(unknown source)





(unknown source)





Ultimate Bible  
Picture Collection

<https://www.thesacredcalendar.com/book-of-joshua-conquest-of-canaan/>

<https://www.bible-history.com/geography/ancient-israel/israel-old-testament.html>

## Numbers 21:17, 18









