

The Supernatural Worldview of the Bible

Old Testament

Divine Council

& Psalm 82

& Psalm 89

& Exodus 18?

Divine Council

(benê) 'elohim / 'elim
“sons of God”

- Job 38:7
- Job 1:6
- Job 2:1
- Genesis 6:4
- Deuteronomy 32:8 *
- Psalm 29:1

God of Israel (YHWH)

“among” or “above” the ’elohim / ’elim

- Psalm 86:8
- Psalm 95:3
- Psalm 96:4
- Psalm 97:7, 9
- Psalm 136:2
- Exodus 15:11

Incomparability of YHWH

“none besides me”; “none like me”

- The phrases are **not** denials of the existence of other *elohim*.
- They are statements of **incomparability**.

How do we know that?

Incomparability of YHWH

These “denials” occur in the same chapters and books as those that refer to other *elohim* (Deut 4, Deut 32)

Deut 32:12 vs. Deut 32:17 (NLT)

Deut 4:35 vs. Deut 4:19-20;

Deut 17:2-3;

Deut 29:24-26

Incomparability of YHWH

These “denial phrases” are used elsewhere where denial of existence cannot be possible.

Isa 47:1, 8, 10

Zeph 2:13, 15

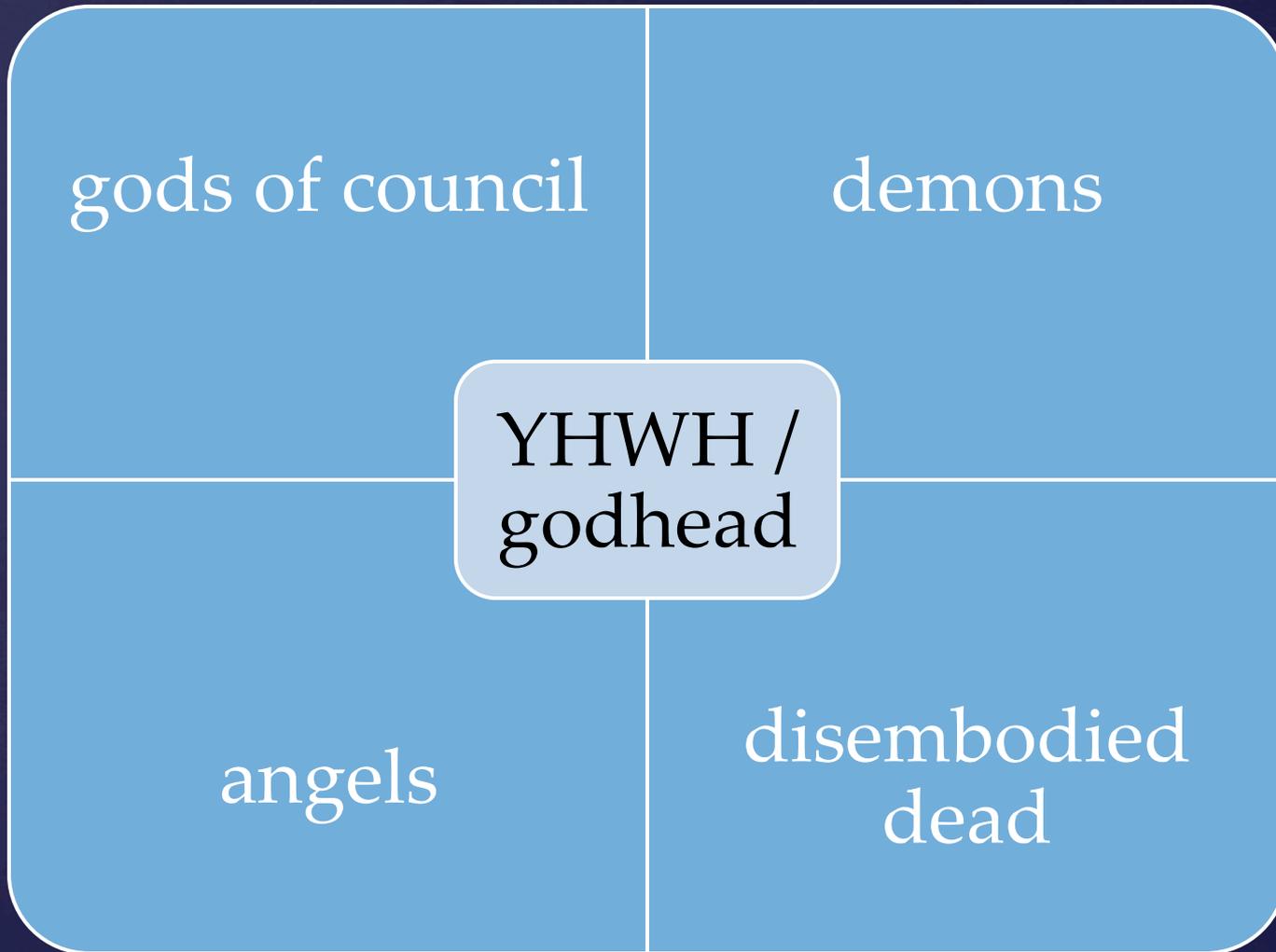
How do we understand this?

- What about monotheism?
- It's a **cultural-context problem**, not a theological problem.
- **Answer** right in front of us ... **in the text**

Who is / are 'elohim?

- **God of Israel** (Psalm 82:1a and other psalms)
- The **gods** of the divine council (Psa. 82:1b, 6)
- **Gods of various nations** (for example...)
 - Ashtoreth, the god(dess) [*elohim*] of the Sidonians, Chemosh, [*elohim*] of Moab (1 Kings 11:33), Milcom, the god [*elohim*] of the Ammonites
- **“Demons”** [*shedim*] (Deut 32:17)
- Disembodied **human dead** (1 Sam 28:13)
- **Angels (better, one Angel and God)** – Genesis 35:1-7 (plural verb; cp. Gen 32, then Gen 48:15-16)

³*elohim* = realm / residence



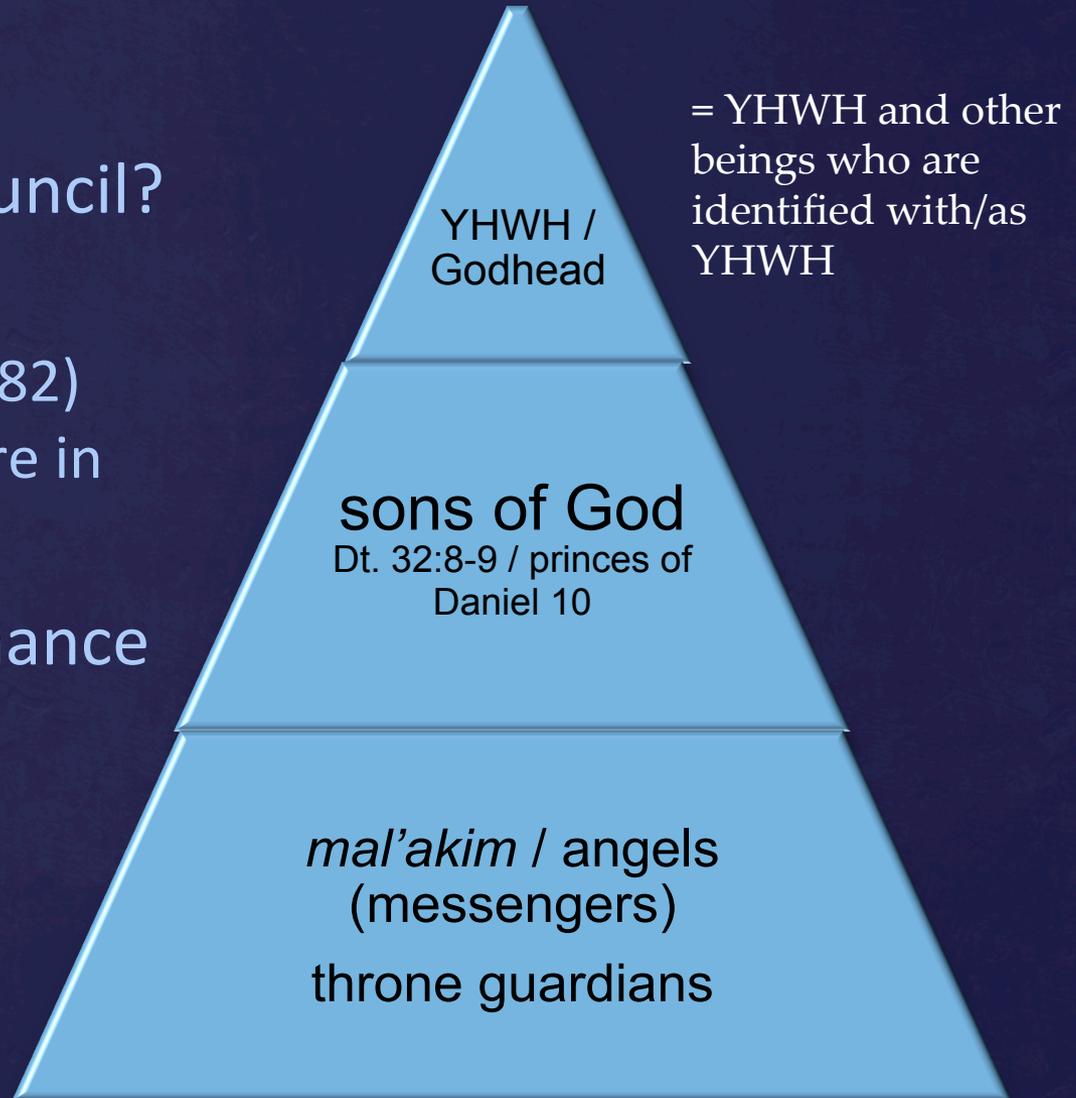
Divine Council

Does God need a council?

Council members in rebellion (Dt 32, Psa 82) are excluded (they are in rebellion)

Participatory governance

- imaging



The Gods of the Nations

Deuteronomy 32 Worldview

Deut 32:8-9 (ESV)

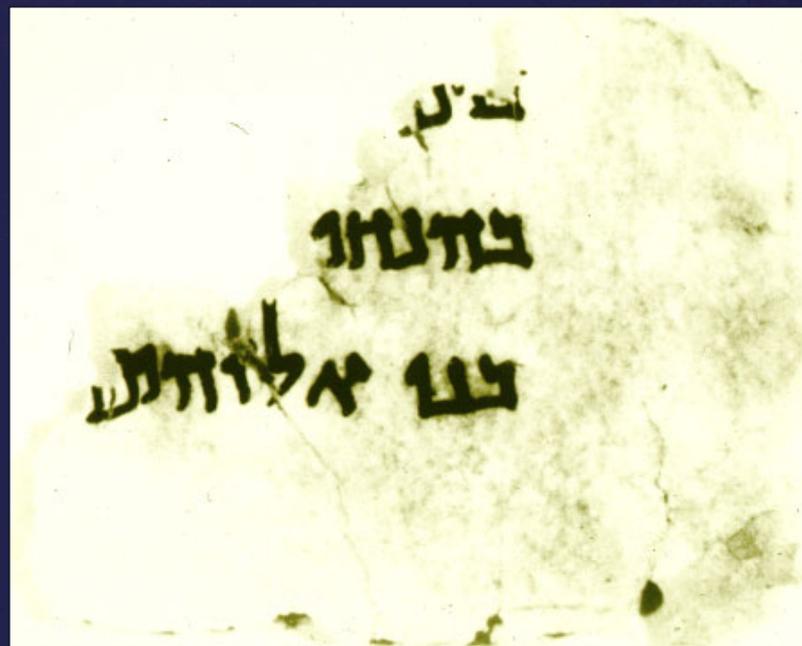
Col. XII, Deuteronomy 32:7-8

32:7 12] בֵּינֵם

8 13] בהנחיל

14] בני אלוהים

bottom margin



OT Cosmic Geography

- Genesis 11 = the **disinheriting** of the nations
- Genesis 12 = **Call of Abram** to create a new for Himself (His “portion” – Deut 32:9); cp. Acts 17:24-27

OT Cosmic Geography

- Explains a number of passages.
- For example:
 - 1 Samuel 26:17-19
 - 2 Kings 5:17-19
 - Daniel 10:13, 20-21 (cp. Dan 12:1)

82 A PSALM OF ^lASAPH.

- 1 ^mGod ⁿhas taken his place in the divine council;
in the midst of ^pthe gods he ^qholds judgment:
- 2 “How long will you judge unjustly
and ^rshow partiality to ^sthe wicked? *Selah*
- 3 ^tGive justice to ^uthe weak and the fatherless;
^vmaintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.
- 4 ^wRescue the weak and the needy;
^xdeliver them from the hand of the wicked.”
- 5 ^yThey have neither knowledge nor understanding,
^zthey walk about in darkness;
^aall the foundations of the earth are ^bshaken.
- 6 ^cI said, “You are gods,
sons of the Most High, all of you;
- 7 nevertheless, like men ^dyou shall die,
and fall like any prince.”^l
- 8 ^eArise, O God, judge the earth;
for you shall ^finherit all the nations!

Bashan

Extent of the Conquest under Joshua



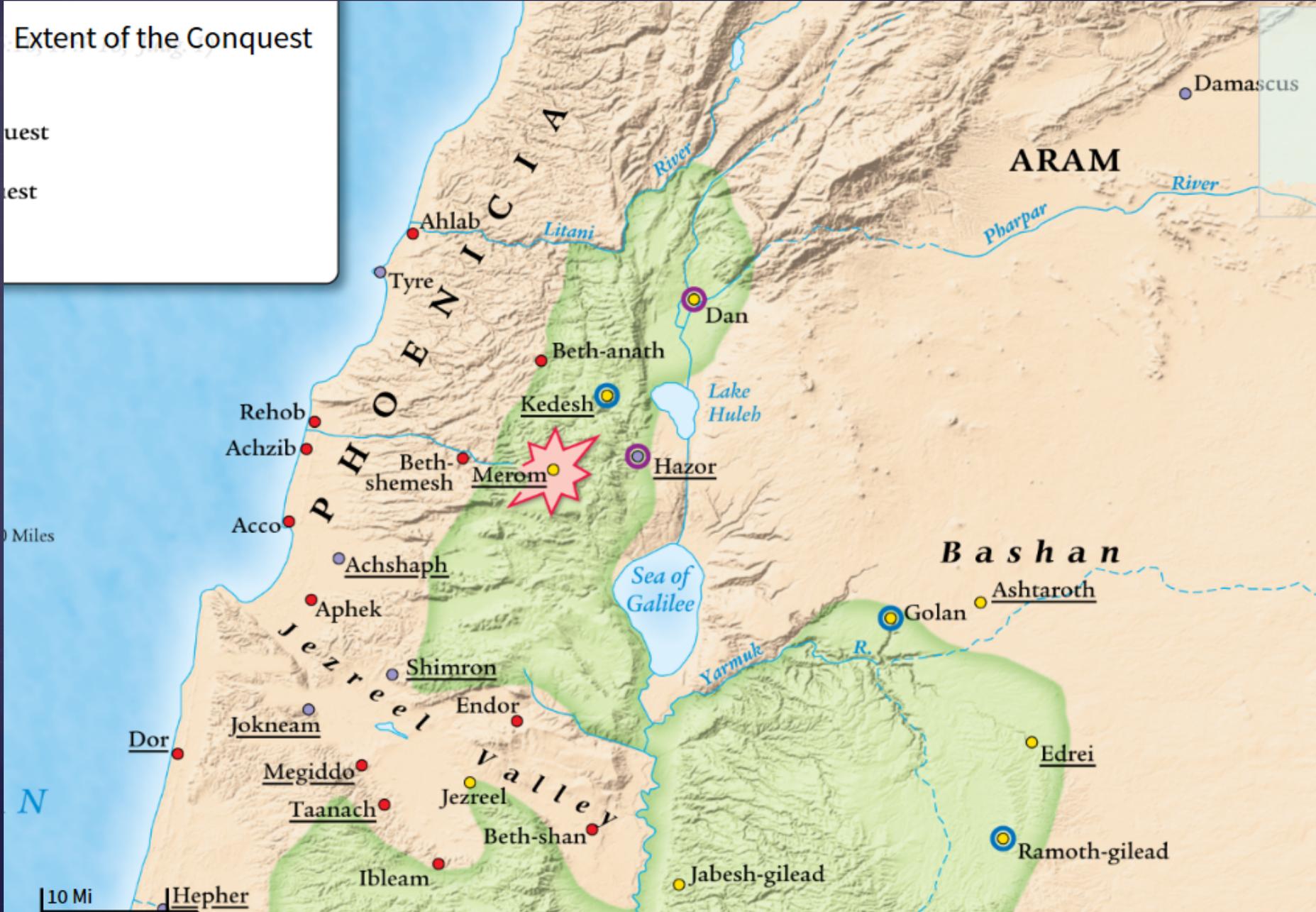
Extent of the Conquest

uest
est

0 Miles

N

10 Mi



Damascus

ARAM

River

Pbarpar

River

Litani

Dan

Beth-anath

Lake Huleh

Kedesch

Hazor

Merom

Beth-shemesh

Rehob

Achzib

Acco

Achshaph

Aphek

Shimron

Bashan

Ashtaroth

Golan

Sea of Galilee

Yarmuk R.

Endor

Jokneam

Dor

Megiddo

Jezreel

Taanach

Beth-shan

Edrei

Ramoth-gilead

Ibleam

Jabesh-gilead

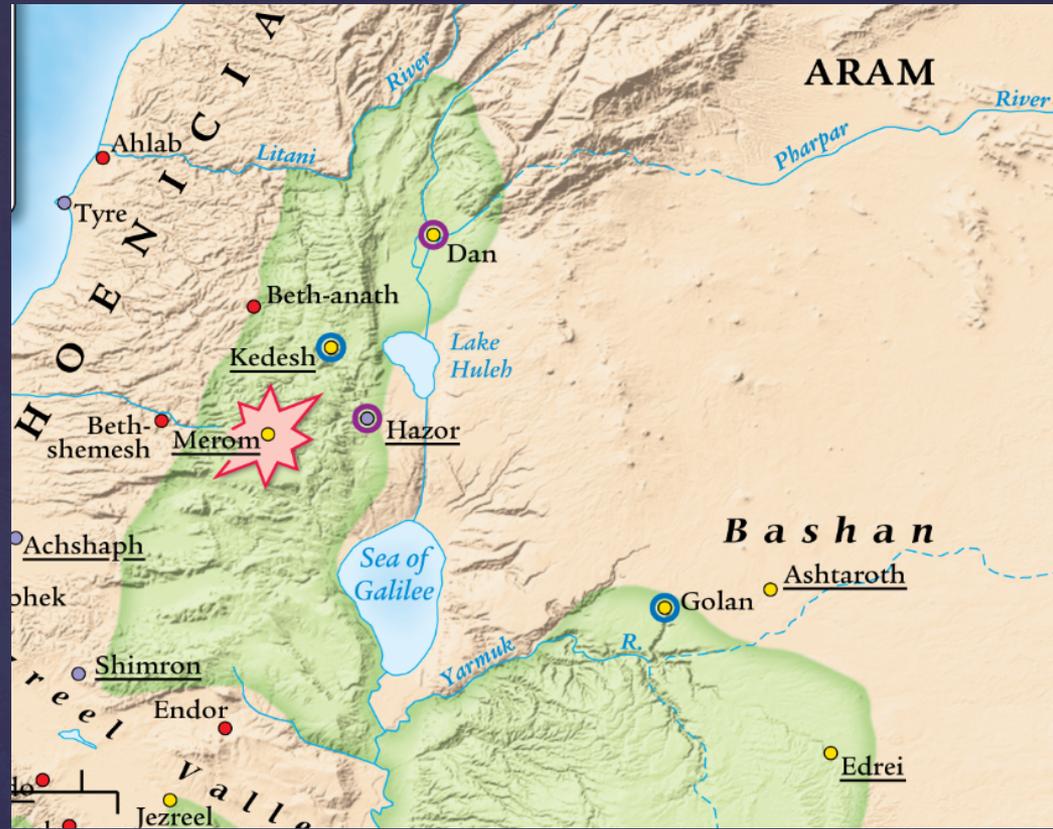
Hephher



Tribal Allotment

Deut 1:4 - Sihon the king of the Amorites, who lived in Heshbon, and Og the king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth and in Edrei.

Josh 9:10 - ... the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth.



Josh 12:4 - and Og king of Bashan, one of the remnant of the Rephaim, who lived at Ashtaroth and at Edrei⁵ and ruled over Mount Hermon and Salecah and all Bashan . . . **Deut 3:11** (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.)

Bashan

- ↳ Domain of Rephaim; Canaanite hell and “place of the serpent”
- ↳ Domain of Baal, co-regent of El
 - ↳ Satan figure (Baal-Zebul)
 - ↳ Lord of the dead (defeated Mot, rose from dead)
 - ↳ Lord of the Rephaim; giants and evil spirits who inhabit the Underworld
- ↳ Mount Bashan (= Hermon) and its associations
 - ↳ Gen 6, sons of God (Watchers), nephilim (Rephaim)