

Deuteronomy 3 deals with the progress of the children of Israel to take possession of the Promised Land. That is the land God promised to give them. They are brought into contact with Og king of Bashan whose people were Amorites. They were also a subset of giants indicated by the dimensions of king Og's bedstead. In general terms 9 cubits is 9 times 18 = 162 inches or 13 ft 6 inches long and 4 cubits or 4 times 18 = 72 inches or 6ft wide. (18 inches is the common use size of a cubit), clearly an oversized person.

As an information point the Amorites were those people who helped Abraham in the recovery of Lot from the invading army of the kings of the east; Genesis 14. They were therefore aware of Abraham and what God required of him/had promised him. However, any affinity those original three brothers had was long lost, even totally forgotten. This, in turn, contributed to the Amorites' utter condemnation by God. (Unlike the Moabites, Ammonites and Edomites all of whom God had forbidden the Israelites to have conflict with.) This sad state of affairs means that they were in God's eyes/knowledge unredeemable. A salutary reminder to us that we should put the utmost effort to make our calling and election sure.

When we, being frail, fall we should rise again and press to the prize of our high calling. We need to consider that God watches and sees all. Further that He also decides who and how long they possess land/is numbered as quoted in Acts 17:26-7 and Daniel 5 Mene Mene Tekel Upharson. This determination is tempered by how nations behave and that includes Israel. God however is just, opportunity is always present to allow behaviour correction. He is not willing that any should perish but wishes all would repent and come unto him (Ezekiel 18). Yet it is important to note possession of the promised land was done by the leadership or first presence of Joshua. Interestingly, in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3) the presence of the lord was found as was the voice of the lord. Hence these things are constants with regard to God's interactions with mankind. In Hebrews 11 the promises are to be realised only when everyone is gathered together see chapter 11 v 40.

Another important connection re Joshua is that he is a foreshadower of Jesus through whom every promise will be realised.

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