

## REVERSING HERMON

### Session 6: The Watchers & Jesus' ministry

#### Learning objectives

By the end of this session, we shall be able to explain why:

- Jesus expelled demons from humans.
- Jesus led his apostles up Mt. Hermon.
- Jesus conversed with Moses and Elijah, when he was transfigured.

#### Origin of the Ancient Giants

##### Angels and giants in Genesis 6

<sup>1</sup> "When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, <sup>2</sup> the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. ...  
<sup>4</sup> The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward."

##### Angels and giants in 1 Enoch 6

<sup>6</sup> "The [Watchers] were, all of them, two hundred, who descended in the days of Jared onto the peak of Mount Hermon. And they called the mountain 'Hermon' [curse] because they swore and bound one another with a curse on it."

- Curse: (trilateral root) *herem*.
- Hermon: (with local suffix) *hermôn*.

##### Amorite 'giants' in Mesopotamia

*Pre-exodus*: "<sup>16</sup> They shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." Genesis 15

*Post-exodus*: "9 It was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks." Amos 2

##### Giants in the Land

"<sup>31</sup> We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are... <sup>32</sup> All the people that we saw in it are of great height. <sup>33</sup> And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim)..." Numbers 13

- Nephilim: (Aramaic) 'giants', that is, stronger and taller.

##### Esau and the Amorites Giants

"<sup>9</sup> Esau rided his regions of the Amorites ... <sup>10</sup> a people great and many, and tall as the Anakim...

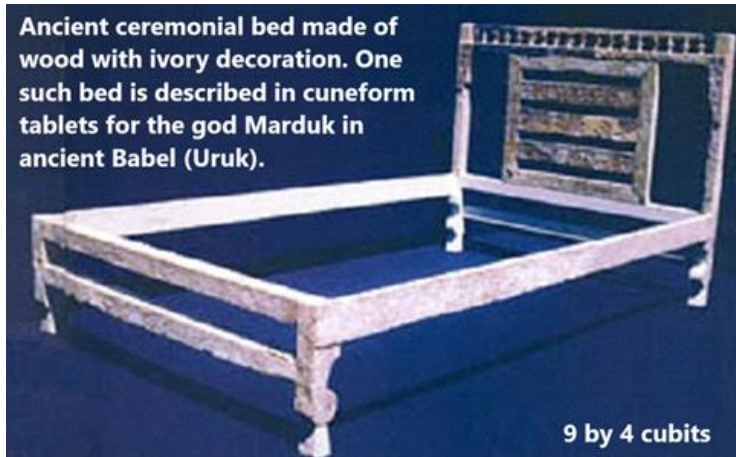
<sup>12</sup> The people of Esau dispossessed them and destroyed them from before them and settled in their place" [east of the Jordan river]. Deuteronomy 2

- Anakim: A giant clan dwelling in Canaan (Mesopotamia) in ancient times.

##### Giant king Og

"<sup>1</sup> 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 [City] of the Ammonites? Nine cubits was its length, and four cubits its breadth, according to the common cubit." Deuteronomy <sup>3</sup>

- Bed: <sup>13</sup> by <sup>6</sup> feet. Royal bed for cultic love making. (Same as at Babel.)



### Ba'al, Lord of dead apkallu kings

#### First Testament

King Ahaziah fell ... and lay sick... So he sent messengers, telling them, "Go, inquire of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness." 2 Kings 1:2 (9th cent. BC)

#### New Testament

Jesus said: "<sup>25</sup> They have called [me] the master of the house Beelzebul..." Matthew 10: (AD 33)

- Baal: Mesopotamia, the god Baal was called *ba'al zebul 'arš*, "Prince Ba'al of the underworld."
- Underworld: the place where demons and dead rulers must go to await their Judgement.

### Jesus and Watcher (Nephilim) Spirits

#### Origin of Watcher spirits (Nephilim demons)

<sup>8</sup> The giants who were begotten by the spirits and [human] flesh— their dwelling will be on the earth...

<sup>9</sup> Evil spirits they will be on the earth, and evil spirits they will be called... <sup>12</sup> These spirits (will) rise up against the sons of men and against the women, for they have come forth from them." 1 Enoch 15

#### Jesus expels Watcher spirits from Gentiles

<sup>1</sup> They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of [Bashan]. <sup>2</sup> There met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit... <sup>4</sup> No one had the strength to subdue him... <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. <sup>7</sup> He cried out with a loud voice, "Jesus, Son of the Most High God!" ... I adjure you by God, do not torment me..." <sup>10</sup> And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country... <sup>13</sup> The unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea. Mark 5

- Son of the Most High: See Psalm 82:6.
- Strength: Nephilim spirits.
- Torment: Their destiny. Psalm 82:7 Matthew 25:41
- Send out: 'Rulers in heavenly places'. Ephesians 5:10
- Pigs: Unclean. The spirits are demoted.
- Drowned: As their divine-human bodies had drowned in the great flood.

#### Jesus expels Watcher spirits from Israelites

<sup>23</sup> There was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." Mark 5

## Jesus Reverses Hermon

### Mount Hermon, Bashan Range in opposition

<sup>15</sup> O mountain of God, mountain of Bashan; O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan!

<sup>16</sup> Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain, at the mount that God desired for his abode, yes, where the LORD will dwell forever? Psalm 68

### Jesus reverses Hermon's effects

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples ... <sup>15</sup> "Who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, ... "Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven." <sup>18</sup> "And I tell you, you are Peter [*petros*], and on this rock [*petra*] I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> "Whatever you [Peter (singular)] bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16 [All apostles in Matt. 18:18]

### The Gates of Hell

Three current interpretations:

- Ancient: Satan, the lord of the dead.
- Traditional: Persecution against Christians in church history.
- Scholarly: The Grotto of Pan at Bashan near Caesarea Philippi.

### Other Watchers rule over nations

<sup>8</sup> "When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God [Watchers]. <sup>9</sup> But the Yahweh's portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage." Deuteronomy 32

- Sons of God: Genesis 6:1-4; Psalm 82.

### Watchers become disobedient rulers

<sup>1</sup> God [will take] his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment... 'How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked?... <sup>6</sup> I said, 'You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; <sup>7</sup> nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.'" Psalm 82

### Jesus' transfigured atop Hermon

<sup>28</sup> Jesus took with him Peter, John and James and went up on the mountain. <sup>29</sup> As he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup> Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared in glory talking with him, <sup>31</sup> about his departure. ... <sup>34</sup> A cloud came and over-shadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup> And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup> And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. Luke 9

### Jesus reclaims Hermon as his own

Implications

- Mountain: Bashan range, probably Mount Hermon
- Appearance: A human-divine being, where the Watchers descended long ago.
- Moses & Elijah: Divinized messengers, recalling Watchers called 'angels/messengers'.
- Voice: The Most High God who rebuked Watchers.
- Son: Who inherits heaven and earth, including Mount Hermon.
- Chosen one: Watchers are displaced.
- Listen: Watchers must now obey Jesus, his apostles, and praying Christians.