

The Bulls of Bashan

What an exciting title. Reading this paper looks to be about as exciting as sitting and watching your faucet drip. But what if you were to discover that Jesus' suffering on the cross was added to by the bulls of Bashan? If you are a believer, no doubt the title has suddenly become a little more interesting.

The Holy Spirit through David, in Psalms 22:12, 13 quotes our Lord Jesus as saying "many bulls have compassed me, strong bulls of Bashan have beset me around. They gaped upon me, with their mouths, as a ravening and roaring lion." This was written a thousand years before Jesus died, and 700 years before crucifixion was invented by the Medes, and later perfected by the Romans as the ultimate means of inflicting a most torturous death. Even so, there can be no doubt as one reads the whole Psalm that it is autobiographically composed in advance, telling of His tortured thoughts as He would experience them while hanging on the cross. Those who are committed to Jesus, who love Him and who seek to know more thoroughly His Word as He gave it to us for our learning, are no doubt eager to understand the significance of these verses.

As I began researching for their meaning, I intended to write only a short paper on the results of my efforts. I had hoped to merely "connect a few dots," that is, to search the Scripture and other sources for relevant allusions, connect them into a coherent verbal picture, and then simply report my findings. However, there seems to be a bigger picture composed of many "dots," some directly and some indirectly associated with the subject. Some are very weird and even so spooky that they run way counter to common sense and generally accepted beliefs. Therefore, as components of a larger picture they defy being explained in a few simple sentences. Some "dots" risk being dismissed, avoided, or somehow rationalized into more palatable conclusions, as some early expositors chose to do. Some of these rationalizations and misinterpretations of Scripture remain as accepted parts of Christian exegesis and are especially a very staid part of Roman Catholicism. To have written here of the bigger picture, as I started to, reporting on all that I found, would have resulted in a paper so lengthy, and so complex and seemingly so absurd, that the

simple answer to the subject question might well have been obscured. Yet, to write less is to be almost assured that the reader, absent all of the background, may be left unconvinced that he or she has been exposed to enough evidence from which to find agreement with the following conclusions. After prayer and reflections on the matter, I chose to write this relatively short version in both the hope and belief that those who do not accept the validity of what I've written will do as the Bereans did (Acts 17:11), and check the Scripture to see if these things be so. I believe that to do less will leave a large and potentially dangerous gap in a "believers" understanding of what really happened "behind the scenes" in the past, what is happening here and now, and what will be the great and final deception, the foundation of which is now being laid, as we continue into these end times. Scripture tells us much about this if we are willing to listen and to search. Wise observers have noted, and now even science is discovering, that we actually live in a simulated world much like a hologram, and that reality is actually in the unseen, multi-dimensional realm of the spirits. God, through the Scriptures, made this known a long time ago as He repeatedly said, "for those with ears to hear." Now, having gone through all of the "Fifth Amendment" rhetoric, let us see what we can find out about the "Bulls of Bashan."

Believe it or not, Bashan is mentioned 60 times in the Old Testament. It was the name of the region east of the Jordan River, which is, in part, today called the Golan Heights. It was known as good cattle grazing land and was the very land into which the tribes of Reuben, Dan and Manasseh chose to settle (Numbers 32:1-5). It was not the land west of the Jordan which God had sent them into, but He did allow them their wish, something their descendants, to this day, would deeply regret. (Numbers 32:33). Bashan was a kingdom and its king was named Og. We hear of him 22 times in the Old Testament but learn little about him, except that he and his people were the Rephaim, a remnant of the giants, also known in Hebrew as the "walking dead." These can be traced to Genesis 6:4 where Moses tells us:

"That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair, and they took them wives of all which these chose..." "There were giants in the earth in those

days, and also after that when the sons of God came unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.”

It is popular belief today that this verse means something much different than a simple forthright exegesis clearly indicates. Somehow, the “sons of God” has been twisted to mean the “sons of Seth.” To believe that angels can procreate is very strange and difficult to accept. But that is precisely what Scripture says. “Bene Ha Eloheim” always means angels in the Old Testament and this clear and obvious meaning was believed throughout the earlier ages as also recorded in such esteemed, non-scriptural literature as Josephus’s writings, the “Book of Enoch,” and “The Testimony of The 12 Patriarchs.” In Job 38:7 God himself says as He speaks of His initial creation “... and all the sons of God (Bene, Ha, Elohiem) shouted for joy.” He didn’t say some of His sons, but All of His sons. He spoke clearly of this event, which, of course, was long before Seth or his sons came along. Because God is truth, if the sons of Seth were somehow later included as some of His sons, He would have had to qualify that statement to make clear that all didn’t mean all, but only those He created first.

It was in the fourth century when Julius Africanus, for political reasons, invented the Seth theory as a “comfortable” explanation for this strange event. He claimed that these sons of God were actually the faithful believers of the sons of Seth who inappropriately married the unfaithful daughters of Cain and then produced these giant monstrosities. For some reason, perhaps again political, Augustine embraced this clearly unbiblical stance, and it thereby became established in Roman Catholic dogma. Remember that it was also Augustine who chose to accept, for political reasons, origins, spiritualization or allegoricalization of the prophecy that Jesus would sit on David’s throne. Even Luther failed to recognize these false beliefs, and so they and others remain incorporated even in much of Protestant theology.

The word giant in King James Version comes from the Greek Septuagint “gigantes” which does not mean giant, but “earth born.” The Hebrew word is Nephilim from

Nephilim meaning “to fall, be cast down, to fall away, desert,” and also from “Habborim” “the mighty ones.” They did happen to be giants, super human in size (15 to 30 feet or more in height, based on archeological finds and historical writings such as by Plutarch). They were also very violent and sinful. Every recorded ancient culture from Sumer, Assyria and Egypt, to those of the Mayans and Incas, along with the famous story of Gilgamesh, contains legends about half God and half man giants. The Greek Titans, such as Hercules are well known examples. Based on Scripture, one must conclude that much of this so-called mythology is more fact than fiction in its essence.

The Seth fallacy is easily demolished simply because there is no Biblical evidence to substantiate it, and much to refute it. How and why, for instance, could simple human beings regardless of their faith or faithlessness, produce en masse, such monstrosities. No human mix regardless of the difference in ideology, color, size, or other diverse characteristics ever produced anything close to such beings as, “the mighty men of old.” Of course, within any human groups we have considerable size ranges (4± feet to 7+ feet) but nothing close to what those things were. If the lines of Seth were so virtuous, why did they die in the flood? With only Ham and Shem and Japheth left to procreate, where did the Nephilim / Raphaim, who existed after the flood, come from? They were the sons of fallen angels as Genesis 6 clearly tells us! Why torture and twist these simple clear verses into totally unsupportable and false meanings! Some point to Matthew 22:3 as evidence that angels cannot have sex, because Jesus said “they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels of God in heaven.” This says nothing about the capabilities of angels, and Jesus also chose to limit His comment to “angels of God in heaven,” not the fallen ones. Who knows, it might even have been the temptation of having sex with earth women, which is what Satan used to initially lure one third of the angels out of heaven. This type of mass luring into sin, is not without precedent in Scripture (Check out Balaam). Finally, let’s look at Genesis 4:26. “And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enos: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.” Why is the time of Enos, son of Seth, singled out as the time in which men began to “call” upon the name of the Lord? We see earlier Adam talking to the Lord and even Cain discussing his punishment with the Lord. Are we to assume that

neither Adam nor Eve, nor any of their children until the grandson Enos, ever “called on the name of the Lord? There is something strange about this verse as translated. What we have here, some careful scholars recognize is a mistranslation, or as I see it, an unfortunate, out of context, choice of possible meanings of the word “call” from the Hebrew word “qura.” Rather than “call”, qura can also mean accuse, quarrel, act in a hostile manner, the idea of accosting, berate, etc. It has been observed that this verse would have been better translated “Then men began to profane the name of the Lord.” (Call something by the name of the Lord). Missler provides several venerated Hebrew sources, which verify that more appropriate meaning of the verse.

Targum of Onkelos: “..desisted from praying in the name”; Targum of Jonathan: “surnamed their idols in the name...” ; Kimchi, Rashi & other ancient Jewish commentators agree; Jerome indicates this opinion of many Jews of his day; Maimonides, Commentary on the Mishna, (a constituent part of the Talmud), AD 1168, ascribes the origin of idolatry to the day of Enos.

Let us also look at the root meaning of “Enos.” It can mean mortal, desperately wicked, incurable, or woeful. This is not a very flattering or stalwart name, but it fits well with what appears to be the correct message of Genesis 4:26. Why all this emphasis on Genesis 4:26 and Enos? It is simply to further demolish the foolish and wrong idea that the “sons of God” in Genesis 6:4, could in any way be the “sons of Seth,” the “good guys” who married the “bad daughters” of Cain to produce the Nephilim. It was with Enos and his generation where idolatry began! We know it began somewhere and spread across the whole earth, because only two chapters later “God saw the wickedness of man was great on earth” Genesis 6:5. It is in Gen 4: 26 where God chose to tell us how it got started.

Hopefully, we have established the fact that the residents of Bashan were the Rephaim and that they were the remnant of the sons of fallen angels as Genesis 6 clearly tells us. We can now also see why God ordered them and other tribes of similar lineage such as the Anakins (Numbers 13:33) to be utterly destroyed as He Himself destroyed those who

polluted the earth before the flood. These were called the walking dead, because their souls after physical death had no place to go. Jesus died for all mankind, not these satanically caused beings. Scripture records that Jesus dealt a great deal with demons. The area in which He did as part of His ministry was heavily populated with them, there being as many as 2000 in the one man called Legion. All of the demons knew Him and knew His mission (Mark 5:7). They also knew their ultimate destiny, as they complained to Him that their time had not yet come. (Matthew 8:31). The area in which He was ministering, was at that time called Gadara, and the 10-city region was then called Decapolis. This was the area formerly called Bashan. Given that demons seem to tend to be territorial, it's not any surprise that He found them there in great numbers, because that is where their bodies perished at the hands of the Hebrews many centuries earlier. Could the troubles, which inflict that region even today, be in any way related to the continued presence of the Bulls of Bashan? Remember also that it was through the tribe of Dan, who lived there, that idolatry first entered the nation. What is idolatry? It's worshipping idols. Does a wooden or stone figure in itself inspire worship? Of course not! It is the principalities and powers behind it who have the powers to do signs and wonders and limited powers to answer prayer which give the figure the illusion of divine power, while in fact it's the devil's power.

Scripture doesn't tell us much more about demons. We know they exist and that they seek to occupy human bodies, unlike angels who are capable of appearing in human form without invading human bodies. We know that Satan and his angels are the "kings, principalities and powers" behind every world power as well as all false religion and idols. We learn this from Daniel 10, and Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, and other references. Why is this fact revealed in such a strange manner? It speaks of multiple levels of governance behind the scenes. Perhaps each principality and power consists of a fallen angel and a host of its offspring demons, the dead disembodied spirits of the Nephilim and Rephaim, dead because they have no hope, and no redemption, their fate being the same as that of their spiritual father, Satan.

Recognizing that these demon spirits exist, and that some of them originated from the Raphaim who populated Bashan, it's not difficult to safely conclude that Jesus was describing these demons, when He called them the "bulls of Bashan." Why bulls? Why not? Of course He could have called them the demons of Bashan, but the area of Bashan was known for its cattle, and Jesus many times used locally identifiable items, places or circumstances as metaphors through which to add a timely clarity to His message. Probably their actions were very bull-like, or perhaps He used this expression simply to get us to search out its meaning. All seven letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2, 3 contain such "local color" of that time. The subject verses here suggest that these roving demons, agents of Satan, perhaps even the ones Jesus purged from their former hosts, saw our Savior, their sworn enemy, seemingly helpless and defeated hanging on the cross, and sought to increase His agony by taunting Him and doing whatever was in their power to hurt Him. Praise God, what they saw as His ignominious defeat was, in fact, His victory over Satan, over sin, and over death and, thus, it became our blessed salvation!

I mentioned at the beginning that a broader understanding of this episode at the cross goes well beyond that moment, and may profound ramifications regarding what is happening in this world right now and what will happen in the near future of these end times. These are issues about which I have pondered as to whether or not to discuss in this paper. I'll not delve into them anymore than to refer to another strange Scriptural passage as a clue, and then present it without any further substantiation of my suspicions. Those interested can add to the above and connect their own dots from these references and from an understanding of what is available from news articles and science journals which frequently, though unknowingly, allude to these end time events. It is my contention that, especially in the unseen world, Satan is preparing his last and greatest deception, and all of the principalities and powers, fallen angels, demons and evil spirits are being trained, programmed, and lined up to put on the show that might even fool the elect as he continues to set up his counterfeit kingdom. Is it possible that the U.F.O.'s and all that is related to them are manifestations of these beings as they deceive and prepare to deceive? As one digs deeper into the matter, there seems to be compelling evidence

that abductions by U.F.O.'s are real. Could this in some way be related to Satan's grand and final deception? In this prophesy of the final days, Daniel 2:43 mentions a very strange thing regarding the final days. "...and where as thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave onto another, even as iron is not mixed with clay." What can that possibly mean? Mingle themselves with seeds of men? Who are themselves? The seeds of man is clearly either mankind itself or perhaps more literally the male sperm. Scripture makes no allowance for any space aliens but it does as mentioned above, point to fallen angels and evil spirits are having these "mingling" propensities. Could this have anything to do with the presumed present day activities of U.F.O.'s and Satan's final grand deception?

It is evident that the Holy Spirit scattered numerous clues regarding all of this in the Scriptures for us to find, to connect, and to arrange into a coherent picture of how this deception might take place. Proverbs 25:2 tells us that "It is the Glory of God to conceal a thing, but the honor of kings to search out the matter." It is doubtful that this is referring to kings as rulers of the nations. Except for David and Solomon, there is no evidence that any of the Hebrew kings, much less any pagan kings, did much searching out of God's concealed things. However, in Revelation 1:6 it seems to provide clarity to this proverb. It tells us that those who have been redeemed, He "hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father..." If you are born again, you are one of the kings God whom expect to search out what He has concealed. I urge you to try it. The quest is exciting and discoveries exceedingly rewarding.