

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

The land of Bashan is mentioned fifty-nine times in the Old Testament. Twenty-two times when Bashan is mentioned, we also read that Og was her king. We are told very little about King Og and/or Bashan but we do know that he was one of two kings of the Amorites which the Israelites did battle with in their journey through the wilderness. (see Deut. 3:8) Sihon was king of Heshbon and Og of Bashan. These Amorites had taken these cities/kingdoms from the Moabites.

The Israelites had made a request of Sihon that he would allow them to pass through his land peaceably but he refused and attacked them. During the ensuing battle Israel prevailed, overthrowing Sihon and taking Heshbon and ultimately sixty cities ruled over by Og, king of Bashan.. This King Og of Bashan was quite a man of renown in those parts being one of the last of the race of giants which dwelt in the land at that time. So while the word "*Bashan*" literally means, "fertile", it does indeed represent a land of great strength and presents itself as a producer of strong opposition which was a formidable foe for the Israelites as they came to do battle, most especially due to the gigantic king who was their leader.

It appears that the cattle of Bashan were especially well known for their aggressive, and even oppressive tendencies as we see them referred to by the prophet Amos as he uses their cattle as an illustration of the tendencies of the inhabitants of the land of Bashan.

Thus we see the LORD JESUS CHRIST, whose prayer David records in the twenty second Psalm, referring to the fact that HE was surrounded by the "*strong bulls of Bashan.*" It is impossible for mere mortals, as we are, to fully comprehend the depths of the sufferings and the utter darkness of despair that gripped the heart and soul of our SAVIOR as HE entered into the very anteroom of hell in order to deliver that people whom HE loved with an everlasting love.

We are surely dumbfounded as we read of the barrenness of HIS soul as HE undertook the redemption of that Bride which is HIS. Can any man fathom the depths of HIS sorrow? None eye did pity HIM as HE hung, accursed between heaven and earth. For in that day, did HIS own FATHER forsake HIM and the heavens became dark and foreboding as HE cried out in HIS thirst. Yet in such a time, when it was obvious to the passerby that HE was even cast out from the gaze of HIS Heavenly FATHER, yet did HIS soul cleave unto HIM who had sent HIM to accomplish such a thankless task for those who mocked HIM and turned their eyes away from seeing HIS visage so marred more than any man.

When any man (by his own logic) would have cursed GOD and blasphemed, yet did this perfect MAN cry out the more for the aid of HIM whom HIS soul loved more than life itself. Would any man boast of faith, let him be ashamed to compare his best estate, to that of HIM who did no sin neither was guile found in HIS mouth as HE committed HIMSELF unto HIM in whom HE would safely trust, though HE slay HIM with the horrors of hell itself.

Yes the "*mighty bulls of Bashan*" did beset HIM as they compassed around HIM, snorting and pawing the ground in anticipation of HIS demise. At that moment HE was powerless to effect HIS own deliverance, not due to any lack of innate strength, but because HE willingly became weak for our sakes. HE who is the AUTHOR of LIFE itself, HE who spoke the worlds into existence, HE who makes peace and creates evil, did give HIMSELF up to HIS tormentors, that HE might bring in an everlasting PEACE and RIGHTEOUSNESS for the objects of HIS love.

O you men of religion, who would go about to establish your own righteousness, and dare to speak of your duty and obedience, let your mouths be silent and your heads hang in abasement as you look upon HIM who is the RIGHTEOUSNESS of GOD. What would you offer in light of that which HE has undertaken to illustrate the only STANDARD of righteousness which is accepted in the courts of heaven. How foolish to seek a refuge in your own pitiful offerings, compared to that which is wrought by HIM who is the MEDIATOR and CHAMPION of that people whom HE loved from before the foundation of the world.

"Thy free grace alone," #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepeer@windstream.net ,**