Giants: Nephilim, Rephaites, and Anakites – A synopsis of verses on how they relate to each other

The references for all terms are complete. Text by NRSV (only relevant phrases quoted). PS, 2020.

The motivation behind putting this together was partly to gain clarity about "who is who", and partly to address the practical question for translation: "Are there verses where we need to make explicit that the above names refer to giants, or do text & context allow the reader to figure this out by himself?"

Book	**Nephilites (Nephilim)**	**Rephaites (Rephaim)**	**Anakites (Anakim)**	**Some Notes and Translation Issues** *(Not all resolved)*
	נְפִילִים	רָפָא \ רָפָה \ רְפָאִים	עֲנָק \ עֲנָקִים	
Basics	Etymology: "the fallen ones"(?). Offspring of sons of God and human women.	An ethnic group of unusual height.* Forefather Rapha. Mostly east of Jordan river. In Gen. 15:20f. named *next* to the Amorites; but can also be seen as a *sub*-group of the Amorites: King Og is of the Rephaim, but elsewhere called an Amorite. * The meaning 'shades / spirit of the dead' (e.g. Job 26:5) is not dealt with here.	An ethnic group of unusual height. Forefather Anak. Mostly west of Jordan river. In Num. 13:22; Josh. 15:13/14, עֲנָק comes with the article. The name Anak might mean "the long-necked people" or "the neck-chain people" (HALOT).	גִּבּוֹר *gibbôr* 'hero', too, is occasionally translated "giant". Not included here. Neither Gesenius / Buhl nor HALAT see a difference between רָפָה and רָפָא. Should one distinguish ethnic Rephaites and "giant-like" Rephaites?? [Perhaps not.]
Gen.	6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went in to the daughters of humans, who bore children to them. These were the heroes that were of old, warriors of renown.	14:5 the kings who were with him came and subdued the Rephaim. 15:20f. the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, [21] the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.		On 6:4, see the good entry in the UBS *Handbook*.
Num.			13:22 (NASB): they came to Hebron where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak [*yᵊlîdê hāʿᵃnāq*] were. 13:28 we saw the descendants of Anak [*yᵊlîdê hāʿᵃnāq*] there.	13:22 Literally sons? Later descendants? Clans? Ashley (NICOT): "These names probably designate three clans who were living in the area." UBS *Handbook:* "GNT renders this phrase as "the descendants of a race of giants called the Anakim," which we recommend, …"

	13:33 There we saw the Nephilim (the Anakites [*bᵊnê ʿᵃnāq*] come from the Nephilim); and to ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers. (See right. >)		13:33 There we saw the Nephilim (the Anakites [*bᵊnê ʿᵃnāq*] come from the Nephilim); and to ourselves we seemed like grasshoppers. (< See left.)	13:33 *min:* = "from"? (but it is questionable how they could descend from the Nephilim in Gen., because the Flood would have killed those); or: "part of"?; or: like them?; or: namesakes? UBS *Handbook:* "If the word Nephilim is transliterated, it will have no meaning, so it will have to be explained either in the text or in a footnote. Many translations render this word as "giants" (GNT, NLT, FRCL), …"
Deut.		2:11 Like the Anakim, they [the Emim] are usually reckoned as Rephaim, though the Moabites call them Emim. (See right. >) 2:20f. (It also is usually reckoned as a land of Rephaim. Rephaim formerly inhabited it, though the Ammonites call them Zamzummim, [21] a strong and numerous people, as tall as the Anakim. But the Lord destroyed them from before the Ammonites so that they could dispossess them and settle in their place. (See right. >) 3:11 only King Og of Bashan was left of the remnant of the Rephaim. 3:13 The whole region of Argob: all that portion of Bashan used to be called a land of Rephaim.	1:28 We actually saw there the offspring of the Anakim [*bᵊnê ʿᵃnāqîm*]! 2:10f. The Emim—a large and numerous people, as tall as the Anakim [*ʿᵃnāqîm*]—had formerly inhabited it. [11] Like the Anakim, they are usually reckoned as Rephaim, though the Moabites call them Emim. (< See left.) 2:20f. (It also is usually reckoned as a land of Rephaim. Rephaim formerly inhabited it, though the Ammonites call them Zamzummim, [21] a strong and numerous people, as tall as the Anakim. But the Lord destroyed them from before the Ammonites so that they could dispossess them and settle in their place. (< See left.) + 9:2	Cf. Num. 13:33. The UBS *Handbook* suggests to do something like GNTD ("They were as tall as the Anakim, another race of giants."). Otherwise the significance of the term Anakim might be lost to the reader. In some places, the same applies to the Rephaites. 2:11 and 2:20: "reckoned as" = "considered", or just "called" (see the following clauses)?
Josh.		For 12:4; 13:12, compare Deut. 3:11. For 17:15, compare Gen. 15:20. "the valley of Rephaim" (near Jerusalem): Josh. 15:8; 18:16; 2Sam. 5:18/22; 23:13; 1Chr. 11:15; 14:9; Isa. 17:5.	11:21 Joshua came and wiped out the Anakim [*ʿᵃnāqîm*] from the hill country + V. 22 14:12 you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities.	

			14:15 Now the name of Hebron formerly was Kiriath-arba [That is *the city of Arba*]; this Arba was [Heb lacks *this Arba was*] the greatest man among the Anakim. 15:13f. he gave to Caleb son of Jephunneh a portion among the people of Judah, Kiriath-arba, that is, Hebron (Arba was the father of Anak [הָעֲנָק]). 14 And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak [*bᵊnê hā ʿᵃnāq*]: Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak [*yᵊlîdê hā ʿᵃnāq*].	In 14:15, Arba is called the **"greatest" of the Anakim**. Many versions interpret this as referring to his influence. But since the Anakim are tall people, it might also refer to his stature. In 15:13, Arba is called the **father of Anak** (or: the Anakim?). 15:14: On the names being Hurrian and West Semitic, see Hess (TOTC), p. 33. Woudstra (NICOT): "The names *Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai* may be designations of family units …" Cf. Num. 13:22.
Judg.			1:20 he [Caleb] drove out from it the three sons of Anak [*bᵊnê hā ʿᵃnāq*].	
2Sam.		21:16 Ishbi-benob, one of the descendants [*yalid*] of the giants (*Rāpâ*), whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of bronze. + Similar vv. 18/20/22.		See UBS *Handbook*.
1Chr.		20:6/8 are parallel text to the last two verses mentioned above. 8:2/37 Just a proper name?		

Remarks

- Note how the various groups are likened to each other: the Emim to the Rephaites, the Rephaites to the Anakites, and vice versa, and the Anakites to the Nephilites.
- I cannot make out a difference between the phrases *yᵊlîdê hā ʿᵃnāq, bᵊnê ʿᵃnāq, bᵊnê hā ʿᵃnāq, bᵊnê ʿᵃnāqîm*, and *ʿᵃnāqîm*.

Literature

NIDOTTE has a good article by Youngblood s.v. "Giants, Heroes, Mighty Men", in vol. 4, pp. 676-678 (but not saying much about the Anakim).

ABD has an entry on 'Nephilim' (vol. 4, pp. 1072-1073) by R. S. Hess, which I could not consult.