

Joshua 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba; which Arba was a great man among the Anakims. And the land had rest from war.

Analysis

And the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba—Kirjath-arba (קִרְיַת אַרְבָּעָה) means "city of Arba" or "city of four." Arba (אַרְבָּעָה) was **"a great man among the Anakims"**—perhaps the greatest of the giant clans that terrorized the ten spies (Numbers 13:28, 33). The Hebrew ha-adam ha-gadol (הָאָדָם הַגָּדוֹל, "the great man") could mean physically great (giant) or socially great (chief). Either way, his city represented Israel's greatest fear forty years earlier.

And the land had rest from war—This concluding phrase marks a major transition. The Hebrew shaqat (שָׁقַת, "rest/quiet") appears at key points in Joshua and Judges, indicating periods when God's people experienced peace through obedience. The conquest of Hebron—symbol of Israel's former fear now possessed by Caleb's faith—appropriately introduces this rest. True rest comes not from absence of enemies but from God's faithfulness rewarding wholehearted obedience. Caleb's conquest of giants brought rest to the land.

Historical Context

The phrase "land had rest from war" marks the end of the major conquest phase (circa 1400 BC). While pockets of resistance remained and individual tribes still had work to do, the systematic national campaigns under Joshua's unified command were complete. This rest lasted until later oppression during the period of Judges, demonstrating that maintaining rest requires continued obedience.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Caleb's conquest of Israel's greatest former fear (Anakim giants) illustrate faith overcoming fear?
2. What does it mean that 'the land had rest from war' when some enemies still remained unconquered?
3. How might naming Hebron after its former giant king serve as perpetual reminder of God's power to overcome our greatest obstacles?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת־ And the name	שְׁמֵן־ of Hebron	בִּרְכָּה before	לְפָנֶיךָ H0	קִרְיָה־ was Kirjatharba	עָבֵד H7153	אָדָם man	פָּאָד H120
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וְאֶת־ which Arba was a great	בְּנֵי־ among the Anakims	וְאֶת־ H1931	וְאֶת־ H776	וְאֶת־ H8252
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מִלְחָמָה:
from war
H4421

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 11:23 (Parallel theme): So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war.

Genesis 23:2 (Parallel theme): And Sarah died in Kirjath-arba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.

Joshua 15:13 (Parallel theme): And unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a part among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua, even the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron.

Judges 3:11 (Parallel theme): And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died.

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