

# 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 אַרְבֶּעַ) means "city of Arba" or "city of four." Arba (אַרְבֶּעַ) 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 (שָׁקֵט, "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

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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וְשֵׁם	חֶבְרוֹן	קִרְיַת	אֲרָבָה	הָאָדָם
And the name	of Hebron	before	was Kirjatharba	man
H8034	H2275	H6440	H7153	H120
הָגָד וּלְ	בְּעֵינֵי יָם	הָיָא	וְהָאָרֶץ	שָׁקֵטָה
which Arba was a great	among the Anakims		And the land	had rest
H1419	H6062	H1931	H776	H8252
מִמִּלְחָמָה:				
from war				
H4421				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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