

# Joshua 15:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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Caleb's specific inheritance: '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.' This fulfills God's specific promise to Caleb (14:9-13). Hebron, named after Arba (greatest of the Anakim, verse 14), represented formidable opposition—the very giants that terrified the ten spies forty-five years earlier. Yet eighty-five-year-old Caleb confidently claimed this difficult inheritance. The phrase 'according to the commandment of the LORD' emphasizes divine directive—this wasn't merely Joshua's favoritism but God's reward for Caleb's faithfulness. The allocation shows that God rewards wholehearted devotion with meaningful, challenging opportunities. Caleb didn't request easy retirement but difficult conquest, modeling that faithful servants embrace challenges regardless of age.

## Historical Context

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Hebron was ancient, strategic city in Judah's central highlands, about nineteen miles south of Jerusalem. Abraham settled near Hebron (Genesis 13:18), and Sarah was buried there (Genesis 23). The city's association with Anakim giants (Numbers 13:22, 28, 33) made it psychologically significant—conquering Hebron conquered Israel's former fears. Caleb's successful conquest (15:14) demonstrated that the

giants who terrified the previous generation could be defeated by faith. Hebron later became one of Judah's principal cities and David's first capital (2 Samuel 2:1-4, 5:5). Excavations confirm ancient occupation and substantial fortifications. The city's elevation (over 3,000 feet) provided defensive advantage. Caleb's possession of Hebron fulfilled multiple purposes: rewarding individual faithfulness, demonstrating that former obstacles could be overcome, establishing a faithful family in a strategic location, and providing continuity with patriarchal heritage (Abraham's connection to Hebron).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does Caleb's choice of difficult inheritance (giant-inhabited Hebron) rather than easy retirement teach about faithful aging?
2. How does conquering former fears (the giants that terrified previous generation) model spiritual maturity?
3. What challenging opportunities is God offering you that require faith to claim rather than settling for ease?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּתַּתְּ וְרַבְּ בְּ לִכְלָל בְּ  
And unto Caleb the children of Jephunneh he gave a part among  
H3612 H1121 H3312 H5414 H2506 H8432

לִיְהֹוָשׁ עַד יְהֹוָה הַ בְּנֵי  
the children of Judah according to the commandment of the LORD to Joshua  
H1121 H3063 H413 H6310 H3068 H3091

סְבָרָה: הַ יְאָמֵן קָרְבָּן אֶת  
even the city of Arba the father of Anak which city is Hebron  
H853 H7151 H704 H1 H6061 H1931 H2275

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