

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

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

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

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

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

וּלְכָל ב	בְּנֵי	יִפְנֶה ה	נָתַן	חֵלֶק	בֵּת וְכֹל	
And unto Caleb	the children	of Jephunneh	he gave	a part	among	
H3612	H1121	H3312	H5414	H2506	H8432	
בְּנֵי	יְהוּדָה ה	אֶל	כִּי י	יְהוָה ה	לִיהוֹשֻׁעַ ע	
the children	of Judah	according	to the commandment	of the LORD	to Joshua	
H1121	H3063	H413	H6310	H3068	H3091	
אֶת	קִרְיַת	אַרְבַּע	אָבִי	הָעֵנָק ק	הָיָא	חֶבְרוֹן:
H853	even the city	of Arba	the father	of Anak	H1931	which city is Hebron
	H7151	H704	H1	H6061		H2275

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