

# Joshua 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Caleb drove thence the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak.

## Analysis

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Caleb's victory: 'And Caleb drove thence the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak.' The eighty-five-year-old warrior defeats the three Anakim leaders personally or through his leadership. These were descendants of the giants that terrified Israel forty-five years earlier. The specific naming (Sheshai, Ahiman, Talmi) personalizes the victory—not abstract 'giants' but specific opponents defeated through faith. This fulfills God's promise and vindicates Caleb's earlier faith (Numbers 13:30). The conquest demonstrates that what seems impossible to human observation ('we were in our own sight as grasshoppers,' Numbers 13:33) is achievable through faith in God's promises. Judges 1:10 credits Judah corporately with this victory, suggesting Caleb led Judahite forces. Either way, the victory testifies to faith's power across decades and into old age.

## Historical Context

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The Anakim were giant people inhabiting Canaan's hill country, particularly around Hebron. Numbers 13:22 mentions Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi specifically as being in Hebron during the spying mission—the same individuals (or their descendants with same names) that Caleb now defeats. The forty-five year continuity shows these giants or their dynasty persisted through Israel's wilderness wandering and initial conquest. Their defeat was psychologically and strategically significant—conquering what caused the previous generation's failure vindicated faith over fear. Archaeological evidence doesn't confirm giant skeletons

(expectations of fifteen-foot giants are likely exaggerated), but ancient sources including Egyptian and Mesopotamian texts mention unusually tall people groups. Whether literally giant or simply tall, formidable warriors, the Anakim's defeat demonstrated God's power to overcome intimidating opposition. The conquest opened Judah's highlands for settlement.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. What giants (seemingly insurmountable obstacles) from your past is God calling you to finally conquer through faith?
2. How does defeating long-standing enemies (forty-five years later) demonstrate God's faithfulness across time?
3. What role does age and experience play in finally overcoming what intimidated you earlier in life?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּדְרוֹשׁ	מִשָּׁם	כָּל־בְּ	אֶת־	שְׁלוֹשׁ־הַ	בָּנֵי־	הָעָנֹקִים׃	אֶת־
<b>drove</b> H3423	H8033	<b>And Caleb</b> H3612	H853	<b>thence the three</b> H7969	<b>sons</b> H1121	<b>of Anak</b> H6061	H853
שֵׁשַׁי	וְאֶת־	אֲחִימָן	וְאֶת־	תַּלְמִי	וְיֵלִידֵי־	הָעָנֹקִים׃	
<b>Sheshai</b> H8344	H853	<b>and Ahiman</b> H289	H853	<b>and Talmai</b> H8526	<b>the children</b> H3211	<b>of Anak</b> H6061	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Judges 1:20** (Parallel theme): And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence the three sons of Anak.

**Judges 1:10** (Parallel theme): And Judah went against the Canaanites that dwelt in Hebron: (now the name of Hebron before was Kirjath-arba:) and they slew Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi.

**Joshua 11:21** (Parallel theme): And at that time came Joshua, and cut off the Anakims from the mountains, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the mountains of Judah, and from all the mountains of Israel: Joshua destroyed them utterly with their cities.

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