

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

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

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

אֶת הָעֲנָקִים:	בְּנֵי י	שְׁלוֹשׁ ה	אֶת	כָּל ב	מִשָּׁם	וַיִּרְשׁ
of Anak	sons	thence the three		And Caleb		drove
H6061	H1121	H7969	H853	H3612	H8033	H3423
הָעֲנָקִים:	יְלִידֵי	תַלְמֵי י	וְאֶת	אֲחִימָן	וְאֶת	שֵׁשַׁי י
of Anak	the children	and Talmai		and Ahiman		Sheshai
H6061	H3211	H8526	H853	H289	H853	H8344

Additional Cross-References

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 Talmai.

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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