

Joshua 15:54

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Humtah, and Kirjath-arba, which is Hebron, and Zior;
nine cities with their villages:

Analysis

And Humtah, and Kirjath-arba, which is Hebron, and Zior; nine cities with their villages—This verse lists cities in Judah's hill country. Hebron (Kirjath-arba) appears again, contextualizing Caleb's personal inheritance within Judah's broader tribal allotment. The systematic enumeration—**"nine cities with their villages"**—demonstrates meticulous record-keeping for legal and administrative purposes.

These geographical lists serve multiple functions: legal documentation of tribal boundaries, historical preservation of conquest achievements, and theological testimony to God's precise fulfillment of covenant promises. Every named city represented a specific fulfillment of the promise to Abraham that his descendants would possess Canaan (Genesis 15:18-21). The detailed precision reflects God's character—He is not vague in His promises but specific, verifiable, and faithful in every particular.

Historical Context

The cities listed here were in the central hill country of Judah, the heartland of the tribe. This mountainous region, while defensively strong, required terracing and water management for agriculture. The concentration of cities reflects relatively dense settlement in areas where natural springs provided reliable water sources. These became the core territory of the later kingdom of Judah.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the detailed enumeration of cities demonstrate God's precision in fulfilling promises?
2. What does the inclusion of both 'cities' and 'villages' teach about God's concern for all levels of community?
3. How might maintaining careful records of God's faithfulness strengthen faith in future generations?

Interlinear Text

וְחִמְטָה	וְקִרְיָתָא	אַרְבַּּע	הָיָא	חֶבְרוֹן	וְצִיּוֹר
And Humtah	H0	and Kirjatharba	H1931	which is Hebron	and Zior
H2547		H7153		H2275	H6730
עָרִים	תִּשְׁעַת	וְחִצְרֵיהֶן:			
cities	nine	with their villages			
H5892	H8672	H2691			

Additional Cross-References

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.