

# Joshua 19:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

According to the word of the LORD they gave him the city which he asked, even Timnath-serah in mount Ephraim: and he built the city, and dwelt therein.

## Analysis

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**According to the word of the LORD they gave him the city which he asked, even Timnath-serah in mount Ephraim: and he built the city, and dwelt therein**—Joshua's request honors God's word (**according to the word of the LORD**). Timnath-serah means 'extra portion' or 'remaining portion.' **He built the city**—even in old age, Joshua labors to develop his inheritance. He doesn't retire to ease but continues working.

Faithful service doesn't end with official retirement. Joshua models lifelong stewardship: receiving inheritance means developing it. Paul similarly worked 'in labours more abundant' (2 Corinthians 11:23) until death. The Christian life requires endurance to the end (Matthew 24:13).

## Historical Context

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Timnath-serah (also called Timnath-heres in Judges 2:9) lay in Ephraim's hill country, Joshua's tribal territory. Archaeological surveys suggest a fortified Iron Age settlement consistent with biblical description. Joshua's burial there (Joshua 24:30) made it a memorial site.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do you view 'retirement' in light of Joshua's continued labor to build his inheritance?
2. What does Joshua's modest request teach about ambition versus contentment in service?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל H5921	כִּי H6310	יְהוָה H3068	נָתַן H5414	לֹא H0	אֶת H853	הָעִיר H5892
	According to the word	of the LORD	they gave			him the city
אֲשֶׁר H834	שָׁאַל H7592	אֶת H853	תִּמְנַת־סֶרַח H0	עַד H8556	בְּהָרֵי H2022	אֶפְרַיִם H669
	which he asked		even Timnathserah		in mount	Ephraim
וַיִּבְנֶה H1129	אֶת H853	הָעִיר H5892	וַיֵּשֶׁב H3427	בָּהּ: H0		
and he built		him the city	and dwelt			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 24:30** (Parallel theme): And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-serah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash.