

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

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

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

John 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 – Characteristics of love

Study Questions

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

בְּעֵד יְהֹוָה אֲתָּה לָזֶן תָּנוּ וְלֹא תִּתְנַזֵּן
H5921 According to the word of the LORD they gave H0 H853 him the cit
H5922 H2060 H4114 H5923

אֲשֶׁר שָׁאַל תִּמְנָת אֶת רֶכֶב רֶכֶב יְמִינָה even Timnathserah in mount Ephraim

בָּהּ	וַיֵּשֶׁב	בָּעָרֶךְ	אָתָּה	וְבָנָה
and he built	H853	him the city	and dwelt	H0
H1129		H5892		H3427

Additional Cross-References

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.