

Numbers 13:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

Analysis

The spies reached Hebron, where the giant Anakim dwelt. Hebron's association with Abraham (Genesis 13:18) made its occupation by giants particularly significant—the land promised to Abraham now seemed impossible to possess. Yet this very difficulty was designed to magnify God's faithfulness when He delivered it to His people.

Historical Context

Hebron was founded seven years before Egypt's Zoan (Tanis), making it ancient even then. The Anakim were descendants of Anak, renowned for their great stature (Deuteronomy 9:2). Caleb would later conquer this very city (Joshua 14:12-15), demonstrating that God's promises outlast even the most formidable obstacles.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What 'giants' in your life seem to block God's promises from being fulfilled?
2. How does understanding God's past faithfulness strengthen faith for present impossibilities?

Interlinear Text

וַעֲלֹ	בְּנֶגֶב	וַיָּבֹא	עַד	וְחֶבְרוֹן	וְשֵׁם	
And they ascended	by the south	and came	H5704	unto Hebron	H8033	
H5927	H5045	H935		H2275		
אֶחֱמָן	שֵׁשַׁי	וְתַלְמַי	וְיִלְדָּיו	הָעֵנָקִי	וְחֶבְרוֹן	שִׁבְעָה
where Ahiman	Sheshai	and Talmi	the children	of Anak	unto Hebron	seven
H289	H8344	H8526	H3211	H6061	H2275	H7651
שָׁנִים	נִבְנְתָה	לִפְנֵי	צֶעֶן	מִצְרַיִם:		
years	was built	before	Zoan	in Egypt		
H8141	H1129	H6440	H6814	H4714		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:43 (References Egypt): How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan:

Psalms 78:12 (References Egypt): Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

Isaiah 19:11 (Parallel theme): Surely the princes of Zoan are fools, the counsel of the wise counsellors of Pharaoh is become brutish: how say ye unto Pharaoh, I am the son of the wise, the son of ancient kings?

Isaiah 30:4 (Parallel theme): For his princes were at Zoan, and his ambassadors came to Hanes.

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.

