

## Anakim Are from Adam

### Commentary for June 17, 2013 — Well, at Least One of Them Are Human

It is often frustrating to encounter new things in Scripture, especially when you have read passages over and over again without realizing a detail that totally changes your understanding of that text. Yet for me, this is also part of the fascination of Scripture.

I recently reread Joshua 14:15 and found a very interesting item in the text. (Well, it was interesting to me.) Joshua chapters 14 and 15 describe the distribution of the land. One portion of land was the choice of Caleb, a reward for his faithfulness (Joshua 14:6–15). He was one of the 12 Israelites sent to spy on the land God promised to Israel 40 years before.<sup>1</sup> Caleb desired the portion of Hebron with a particular city:

**“And the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba; which Arba [he] was a great man [ha-adam, in Hebrew] among the Anakim. And the land had rest from war.”**

• **Joshua 14:15**

The King James translates this verse in a manner that could be taken two ways:

- (1) Arba was a human, but great among the giant Anakim people, or
- (2) Arba was himself a great giant in Kirjatharba, “among the Anakim.”

Which is correct? Fortunately, we are given enough information to know for sure that (1) above is the right answer:

**“And unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a part among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of YHWH to Joshua, even the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron. And Caleb drove thence the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak.”**

• **Joshua 15:13–14 (see also Judges 1:20)**

Hebron is west of the Dead Sea about 15 miles, and some 18+ miles south-southwest of Jerusalem. It is in the territory allotted to Judah. Apparently Caleb did not kill the three sons of Anak (who were giants), but rather he drove them out of the territory. This is confirmed later in the Book of Joshua.

**“And they gave them [priests of the tribe of Levi] the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron, in the hill country of Judah, with the suburbs thereof round about it.**

<sup>1</sup> Caleb was one of the 2 of the 12 spies along with Joshua (who succeeded Moses as leader of the 12 tribes of Israel) who tried to inspire the people of Israel to obey God and take possession of the land He gave them. When the people were fearful and refused to go (Numbers 14:1–10), God chastised them with a 40-year sojourn in the wilderness. Caleb and Joshua were the only two men over the age of 20 who survived that 40-year punishment. No other adults of Israel (including Aaron and Moses) entered the Promised Land. They suffered for their lack of trust in God (Numbers 14:30–32).

**But the fields of the city, and the villages thereof, gave they to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for his possession. Thus they gave to the children of Aaron the priest Hebron with her suburbs, to be a city of refuge for the slayer; ...”**

**• Joshua 21:11–13**

Prior to the time of Israel’s occupation of the Promised Land, Hebron was originally known as Kirjatharba (spelled Kirjath-arba in most modern translations), as we are first told in Genesis 23:2. Later after he drove them out of the city of Hebron, Caleb and the men of Judah killed the three sons of Anak:

**“Now the children of Judah had fought against Jerusalem, and [1] had taken it, and [2] smitten it with the edge of the sword, and [3] set the city on fire.<sup>2</sup>**

**And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites, that dwelt in the mountain, and in the south, and in the valley. And Judah went against the Canaanites that dwelt in Hebron: (now the name of Hebron before was Kirjatharba:) and they slew Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai.**

**• Judges 1:8–10**

Such is the narrative of the interaction of Israel with the city of Hebron and its inhabitants, which included the Anakim. But what was the origin of the Anakim? Remember what Joshua, Caleb, and the other 10 spies told the people of Israel upon their return:

**“And there we saw the giants [*nephilim* in Hebrew], the sons of Anak, which come of the giants [*nephilim*]: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.”**

**• Numbers 13:33**

It does not get clearer than this. The Anakim were descended from the Nephilim, although they were called by different names depending on where they lived (Deuteronomy 2:10–12).

So, who cares whether the Nephilim, the Anakim, and the others were descended from Adam? It means they will be in the resurrection, just as you will be. It means Og of Bashan, Goliath and his giant brothers, and the Anakim giants — all of them — eventually will be in the resurrection, glorified as Christ is now. Christ’s salvation will be for them, in spite of their ultra-evil acts, just as it will be for you, me, and every other human being from Adam.

It also means the hybrid offspring of the Sons of God with the daughters of men (Genesis 6:2, 4) are considered by God to be human beings, descendants of Adam. The hybrid offspring of the Sons of God with the daughters of men happened before the flood and after the flood (Genesis 6:4). So far as the Bible informs us the last post-flood descendants of the Nephilim (who were Philistines) were killed by David and his mighty men. Whether you believe there will be another such hybridization and birth of Nephilim again before Christ returns depends on how you read Matthew 24:37–39 and Luke 17:26–27.

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<sup>2</sup> Originally Judah conquered Jerusalem, but probably did not conquer the citadel, or after capturing Jerusalem, they abandoned it and Canaanites moved back into the city (Judges 1:21). See my April 15, 2013 Commentary, “[Jebusite Control of Jerusalem.](#)”