

Overcoming Giants At Hebron, Part 2

Intro: This is the second of a two-part message on the giants we all face in our lives. Giants we would call obstacles and trials. Giants such as, doubt, fear, depression, sickness, death, delay, financial difficulties, loss of our job, and a host of other calamities that come into all of our lives. We are looking at how four Old Testament saints faced and overcame various giants at Hebron. Some faced the literal physical sons of Anak, while others faced figurative giants. The giants they faced and how they overcame them is important, so we too can learn how to face and gain the victory over the giants that come against us.

Last Sunday we looked at how Abraham faced the giant of doubt in God's ability to provide him a son through Sarah, who was well past child-bearing age. He defeated the giant of doubt with faith. Jacob faced the giant of grief, and didn't overcome it until he was reunited with his son Joseph.

Look with me this morning at two more Old Testament heroes, who faced and conquered giants at Hebron. Caleb, faced literal giants at Hebron and overcame them through faith in God. Finally, King David faced the giant of delay in being appointed king over the nation of Israel. He defeated the giant of delay by trusting himself entirely to God.

I. Background Permit me to review our background for the sake of our visitors

One of the biggest men in Old Testament times was named Og (O G). We read about Og in Deuteronomy chapter 3. Og was the king of Bashan, a kingdom in Trans-Jordan that laid to the east of the Sea of Galilee. Og was the last of the race of giants called the Rephaim. According to Deut. 3, verse 11—Og's bed was 13 ½ feet long, and 6 feet wide. This was the world's first King-size bed. It says here in verse 11 that his bed was on display in the museum at Rabbah.

Another giant you might be more familiar with was the Philistine's champion Goliath. According to the Scripture he was over 9 feet tall. That my friends is a big man. Did you know that there was a whole tribe of giants in the Old Testament who terrified the people of Israel? They are called the Anakim, or the sons of Anak because they were descendants of Anak. This tribe of giants struck fear in the hearts of the people of Israel. **Turn with me in your Bibles to Numbers chapter 13.**

We learn in Numbers 13, verse 1 that while Israel was camped at Kadesh-Barnea, the LORD commanded Moses to send out spies to spy out the land of Canaan, which He was going to give to the sons of Israel. Moses selected one man from each of the 12 tribes and sent them out. Well, the spies went out, and during their surveillance of the land they came to **Hebron** where they saw giants, the descendants of Anak (v. 22). When the spies returned from spying out the land, 10 of the spies gave a bad report to the people. Look at verse 28, They told the people that “the people who live in the land are strong, the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the sons of Anak, descendants of the giants.” Caleb tried to calm the peoples’ fears but to no avail. The ten rebellious spies filled the peoples’ hearts with fear. They discouraged the people in verses 31-33 saying, “We are not able to go up against the people of the land of Canaan because they are too strong for us. **v. 32**—“We will be devoured if we go up into this land, all the people whom we saw are men of great size.” **They exaggerated their account by suggesting in v. 33**—“**The land is filled with giants**, we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak.” And we were **like little grasshoppers compared to the giants** who filled the land. **According to verse 22** there were only **three giants, Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi**. **So, the land wasn’t full of giants (v. 33).**

What is of particular importance to our study this morning is the place where the giants lived. We learn from this account in Numbers 33, verse 22 that the 12 spies came up into the land from the south through the Negev in southern Canaan, and they came to **Hebron** where the sons of Anak, the giants lived.

As you can see from the map, **Hebron** is located in the hill country of the southern part of the land of Canaan. It lies about 20 miles south of Jerusalem, and to the west of the Dead Sea. The city of **Hebron** was situated on two ridges running north to south. It sits approximately 2,800 feet above sea level, and is famous for its very rich soil. In fact, the valley of Eshcol, from which the spies collected the bountiful grapes, pomegranates, and figs, laid just north of the city. You can see it here on the map. **Hebron** remains a very fruitful region to this day. If you ever have an opportunity to visit Hebron you will find fruit-stands with luscious grapes, pomegranates, figs, apples, and nuts that remain the prize produce of the Eshcol Valley.

As you may have already surmised from the introduction, **Hebron** was not only famous for growing great fruit, they also were renowned for **growing big men**. The city of Hebron is mentioned several times in the Old Testament as **the city of the giants**. Sadly, the sons of Israel permitted their fear of these giants to keep

them from entering the Promised land of Canaan. The New Testament writer of Hebrews refers to this event in **Hebrews 3:7-19**—as the *Catastrophe of unbelief*.

What giants are keeping you from realizing God’s plan, promises, and provision for your Christian life? The Lord Jesus has left us a job to do, to reach the lost with the good news that God loves them, and has made provision for them to be forgiven of their sin through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, we have let the giants, of doubt, grief, uselessness, and delay, hinder us from doing the work God has assigned for us to do.

We are looking at the lives of four Old Testament saints who **faced giants at Hebron**. Each of these individuals faced a giant at Hebron, and because they looked to God for help, they came away victorious.

As we learned last Sunday morning,

I. Abraham Faced The Giant Of Doubt, And Conquered It By Faith (Gen. 13–14).

He and Sarah wrestled with God’s prediction that Sarah, who was 90 years of age, would bear Abraham the son God had promised him. **The giant of doubt seized both Abraham and Sarah’s hearts**. They both laughed at God’s promise because they doubted that it was possible because of their age. However, our loving God graciously assured Abraham and Sarah that He would provide Sarah with the son of promise next year at that precise time.

While they both may have laughed initially, the Scriptures makes it clear that they both grew strong in faith in respect to God’s promise. Paul says in **Romans 4:19-22** that even though Abraham and Sarah’s bodies were as good as dead, since he was about a hundred years old, and Sarah’s womb was dead, yet with respect to the promise of God, he did not waiver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God. v. 21 “being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able to perform. “Therefore also it was reckoned to him as righteousness (Romans 4:20-22).

The same thing is said of **Sarah in Hebrew 11:10-12**—“By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised; 12 therefore, also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, *as many descendants AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE*.

II. Jacob Faced The Giant Of Grief (Genesis 37 and 45)

Jacob, you recall was overcome by **the giant of grief**. His 10 eldest sons, who hated their younger brother Joseph, sold him to a passing caravan of Ishmaelite traders going down to Egypt. The brothers took Joseph's multicolored tunic and slaughtered a male goat and dipped the tunic in the blood. They returned home to Hebron, and presented Joseph's blood-stained tunic to their father Jacob. After examining Joseph's tunic, Jacob concluded that his beloved son Joseph had been torn to pieces by a wild beast. We read in Genesis 37, verse 34—"So Jacob tore his clothes, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son many days. 35 Then all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. And he said, "Surely I will go down to Sheol in mourning for my son." So his father wept for him."

Jacob refused to be consoled over the loss of his beloved son Joseph. He seems to have forgotten that God is in control of all things (Rom. 8:28). Grief can be a giant that crushes your life, if you choose to give in to it. Let me just say, grief is a healthy emotion that God has given us. When you lose a precious loved one you never really get over it, you just learn to accept it. Death is the inevitable consequence for sin. We are all going to die, but death brings grief. We experience genuine sorrow over the loss of our loved one. As believers, we have God's Spirit to help us work through our grief, so we can continue on with our lives and live them for the glory of God, and the good of others.

Years later, when Jacob's sons brought him news from Egypt that Joseph was alive and had become the ruler over all the land of Egypt, we read in Genesis 45, verse 27, "then the spirit of their father Jacob was revived." v. 28— Then Israel/Jacob said, "It is enough; my son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die." Jacob finally conquered the giant of grief, which had robbed him of years of enjoyment with his family.

We conquer the giant of grief when we seek God to help us through the grieving process. We accept by faith that God loves us and is with us. We pick up the pieces of our shattered life and go on living for the glory of God. Looking forward with eager anticipation to the day when we will be reunited with all of our believing loved ones. This is the life of faith, a faith which is the gift of a loving, and benevolent God.

Look next with me at Caleb, who faces and defeats the giant of uselessness.

III. Caleb Defeats The Giant Of Uselessness (Joshua 14)

- A. Background: Caleb faces the real giants at Hebron, and with God's help, he drives them out. Caleb's story is told in **Joshua 14**. Following 7 years of Conquest, and having removed the primary military threats to Israel's survival in Canaan, Joshua began the task of assigning the land of Canaan to the 12 tribes of Israel. Each tribes allotment was according to the LORD's direction. After confirming Moses' earlier allotments to Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, on the east side of the Jordan, (Josh. 13), Joshua next assigns the tribal allotments to the remaining nine-and-a-half tribes in the land of Canaan proper (chap. 14).

The time for casting lots arrived, and the first tribe to receive their inheritance was Judah. Prior to the casting of the lot, Caleb steps forward and reminds his old friend and fellow spy, Joshua, how 45 years earlier the 2 of them had stood alone against the other 10 spies who had delivered a bad report to the people of Israel. For Caleb, God was bigger and more powerful than any obstacle that Israel might face, including the giant son's of Anak. For his act of bravery and faith, God promised Caleb two things: first, that his life would be prolonged, and secondly, that he would someday receive Hebron, the land of the giants, for his reward (Num. 14:24; Deut. 1:36).

- B. Look at Caleb's request in Joshua 14, verses 11-14—Caleb says, "Even though I am 85 years old today, "I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. 12 "Now then, give me this hill country, Hebron, about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I shall drive them out as the LORD has spoken."

What an astonishing request. At age 85, you would think that Caleb would have asked for a nice quiet place to live out his last days. Instead, he asks for the same parcel of land that had struck fear into the hearts of the 10 spies 45 years earlier. **He wants Hebron, the city of the giants.** Caleb was ready for one more good battle. He was eager to drive out the remaining sons of Anak, and claim Hebron for his possession. Caleb wasn't boasting here. His confidence wasn't in his military prowess or strength, he believed that God would grant him the victory. **Caleb had faith in the promise and power of God.**

- C. Look at Caleb's conquest in chapter 15, verses 13 and 14—"Joshua gave Caleb Hebron, that is, Kiriath-arba, Arba being the father of Anak (that is, Hebron). 14 "And Caleb, courageous and confident in the strength of God, drove out from there the three sons of Anak: Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai, the children of Anak.

Caleb wasn't content to just live out his days in peace and inactivity. Sadly, it is customary to retire our aging seniors. Retirees are made to feel useless, and unwanted. Well, Caleb wasn't having any of that. He asked Joshua for probably one of the most dangerous assignments possible. And because he placed his confidence in the LORD, he was able to drive the giants out of Hebron. Caleb defeated the giant of uselessness and despair.

- D. Caleb gives Hebron to the Levites (Josh. 21:11-13)

One final note about Caleb. We read in chapter 21 that Caleb gave Hebron up to the Kohathites, the sons of Aaron the priest, to be used as a Levitical city and a city of refuge. Caleb epitomizes what a humble and self-less man of God look likes. Everything Caleb did, he did for the glory of God.

By way of application, let me just say, the work of God isn't finished brothers and sisters. Christ has left us a job to do. It is called the Great Commission. There is a whole world of lost people that need to hear about God's love, and the provision He has made for their sin through His Son Jesus Christ. Ask God how you can be of service, and then trust Him to guide you into opportunities to serve.

IV. David Defeats The Giant Of Delay (2 Samuel 2-5)

The final Old Testament hero that faced a giant at Hebron was David. This is another very familiar story. Turn with me if you will to 2 Samuel chapter 1. Saul is dead, and David is the rightful king. God had chosen David, and had Samuel anoint him when he was just a youth. Unfortunately, one thing hindered David from becoming the next king of all Israel, as God had promised him.

- A. Abner makes Ish-bosheth king over the northern 10 tribes (2 Sam. 2:8-11)

The one thing that prevented David from becoming king over the 12 tribes of Israel was that Abner, the commander of Saul's army, had taken Saul's son Ish-bosheth, and made him king over the 10 northern tribes of Israel.

Only Judah recognized and embraced David as king. Following this treasonous act by Abner, which would delay David's becoming the rightful king of Israel, David asks God where he should go. 2 Samuel 2, verse 1,

“Now it came about afterwards, after the death of Saul, that David inquired of the LORD concerning which city of Judah he should reside in (2 Sam. 2:1). The LORD told David to go up to Hebron. Here we are again, back in giant country.

So David took his wives, and his men, each with his household, and they lived in the cities of Hebron. Hebron became the capital of Judah, and the royal residence of David. We read in 2 Samuel 2, verse 11 that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah for 7 years and six months. David would have to wait another 7 years and six months in Hebron for what God promised him. For David, Hebron represented the giant of delay. David, as he had done with Saul, waited patiently for God to give him what he had promised was his. David conquered the giant of delay by faith. He waited and trusted in God to make him king over all Israel as He had promised. That's faith friends.

B. Joab kills Abner (2 Sam. 3)

Joab, David's general, wasn't as patient as David. He felt that Abner's making Ish-bosheth king over the 10 northern tribes was an act of high treason. Abner eventually came to David and offered to deliver up the ten northern tribes to David's kingship. David welcomed Abner, held a feast for him and his men, and sent Abner away in peace (2 Sam. 3:20-21). When Joab returned from a raid, and learned that David had sent Abner away in peace, he sent messengers after Abner and deceived him into coming back. Since Hebron was a city of refuge, Abner felt safe, since innocent blood was protected there.

2 Samuel 3:27—“So when Abner returned to Hebron, Joab took him aside into the middle of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he struck him in the belly so that he died on account of the blood of Asahel his brother. 28 And afterward when David heard it, he said, “I and my kingdom are innocent before the LORD forever of the blood of Abner the son of Ner.” Look down at **v. 31**—Then David said to Joab and to all the people who were with him, “Tear your clothes and gird on sackcloth and lament before Abner.” And King David walked behind the bier/coffin. Thus they

buried Abner in Hebron; and the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner, and all the people wept. v. 36—All the people took note of the fact that David grieved over Abner’s murder, and it pleased them, just as everything the king did pleased all the people. 37 So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been *the will* of the king to put Abner the son of Ner to death. 38 Then the king said to his servants, “Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?”

C. Ish-bosheth is murdered by two of his commanders (2 Sam. 4:1-12)

We read in 2 Samuel 4—that following Abner’s murder, two of Ish-bosheth’s commanders, Baanah and Rechab, slipped into Ish-bosheth’s bedroom while he was taking his midday nap, and they struck him in the belly and killed him, and then beheaded him. They took Ish-bosheth head and traveled all night and brought the head to David in Hebron. v. 8—And they said to King David, “Behold, the head of Ish-bosheth, the son of Saul, your enemy, who sought your life; thus the LORD has given my lord the king vengeance this day on Saul and his descendants.”

David was furious with these two men, Baanah and Rechab, for taking this matter out of God’s hands. He said to them in v. 9—“As the LORD lives, who has redeemed my life from all distress, 10 when one told me, saying, ‘Behold, Saul is dead,’ and thought he was bringing good news, I seized him and killed him in Ziklag, which was the reward I gave him for his news. 11 “How much more, when wicked men have killed a righteous man in his own house on his bed, shall I not now require his blood from your hand, and destroy you from the earth?” 12 Then David commanded his young men, and they killed them. But they took the head of Ish-bosheth and buried it in the grave of Abner in Hebron.

D. David reigns as king over all Israel (2 Sam. 5:1-5)

David was a man who had learned to trust God. He had learned to live with delays. On several occasions his men had encouraged him to kill King Saul, but he refused, saying, “Far be it from me to touch the LORD’s anointed.” David was committed to wait for God’s timing, no matter how long it might take. God honored David’s faith. In 2 Samuel chapter 5, David is crowned king over all Israel. David’s delay finally came to an end. We read in 2 Samuel 5, verses 1-5 that all the elders of Israel came to Hebron, and they anointed him king over all Israel. According to verse 4 David was thirty

years old when he became king, *and* he reigned forty years. 5 At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty-three years over all Israel and Judah. David enjoyed great prosperity and blessings from the LORD.

David faced giants at Hebron, but he conquered them by faith. He defeated the giant of delay by trusting in God to fulfill His promises in His way, and according to His timing. This is the life of faith friends. It is a life that trusts God to accomplish His purposes in our lives according to His plan and perfect timing.

Application:

Perhaps you have been dealing with the giant of delay. It might be a loved one who refuses to listen to the good news concerning the salvation God has graciously made available through His Son Jesus Christ. Maybe you are struggling with an employer. You pray for a new boss or a new job, but your torment just drags on. Maybe you suffer with barely enough money to get by, and you wonder if it will always be this way.

Oh dear friends, God wants you to trust Him. He wants us to live our Christian lives in obedience and trust in Him. He will provide whatever you need, but it will be according to His timing, and knowledge of what we truly need. We need to trust and obey for there truly is No other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey!

Before you can trust or obey Him, you must be certain that you know Him. If you are here this morning and you have never invited Jesus to forgive you of your sin, and to come into your heart as Savior, will you do that right now as I close in prayer?

Closing prayer

Closing Song: He's Always Been Faithful To Me!