

## ~DEBIR 2 (291)

(De'bir) [Innermost, Hindmost]

.. A Royal Canaanite City

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- Finally Joshua and all Israel with him came back to **Debir** and began to war against it. (**Joshua 10:38**)
- And he got to capture it and its king and all its towns, and they went striking them with the edge of the sword and devoting every soul that was in it to destruction. He did not let a survivor remain. Just as he had done to Hebron, so he did to **Debir** and its king, and just as he had done to Libnah and its king. (**Joshua 10:39**)
- Also known as Kiriath-sepher and Kiriath-sannah.
- Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of **Debir**. Now the name of **Debir** before that was Kiriath-sepher. (**Joshua 15:15**)
- And Dannah and Kiriath-sannah, that is to say, **Debir**. (**Joshua 15:49**)
- And they marched on from there against the inhabitants of **Debir**. Now the name of **Debir** before that was Kiriath-sepher. (**Judges 1:11**)
- It was in the inheritance of Judah but became a Levitical city of the Kohathites.
- So out of the tribe of the sons of Judah and out of the tribe of the sons of Simeon they gave these cities that were called by name. (**Joshua 21:9**)
- And Holon and its pasture ground, and **Debir** and its pasture ground. (**Joshua 21:15**)
- And these were their dwelling places by their walled camps in their territory, for the sons of Aaron belonging to the family of the Kohathites, for the lot had come to be theirs. (**1 Chronicles 6:54**)

- And Hilen with its pasture grounds, **Debir** with its pasture grounds. (**1 Chronicles 6:58**)
- There are apparently two accounts of Israel's first conquest of **Debir** as part of Joshua's military operations. The first account simply states that **Debir's** population was annihilated.
- Finally Joshua and all Israel with him came back to **Debir** and began to war against it. (**Joshua 10:38**)
- And he got to capture it and its king and all its towns, and they went striking them with the edge of the sword and devoting every soul that was in it to destruction. He did not let a survivor remain. Just as he had done to Hebron, so he did to **Debir** and its king, and just as he had done to Libnah and its king. (**Joshua 10:39**)
- Furthermore, at that particular time Joshua went and cut off the Anakim from the mountainous region, from Hebron, from **Debir**, from Anab and from all the mountainous region of Judah and from all the mountainous region of Israel. Along with their cities Joshua devoted them to destruction. (**Joshua 11:21**)
- No Anakim were left in the land of the sons of Israel. It was only in Gaza, in Gath and in Ashdod that they remained. (**Joshua 11:22**)
- So Joshua took all the land, according to all that Yehowah had promised Moses, and Joshua then gave it as an inheritance to Israel by their shares, according to their tribes. And the land had no disturbance from war. (**Joshua 11:23**)
- Is likely a recapitulation of the same conquest, since verse 18 refers to the many days when Joshua waged war with all these kings, while supplying the additional information that Joshua cut off the Anakim from **Debir** and other cities. This supplementary material may have been included to show that even the tall Anakim, who had struck such fear in the hearts of Israel's spies more than 40 years earlier
- Nevertheless, the facts are that the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the fortified cities are very great, and, too, those born of Anak we saw there. (**Numbers 13:28**)
- But the men who went up with him said; We are not able to go

up against the people, because they are stronger than we are.  
([Numbers 13:31](#))

- And they kept on bringing forth to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying; The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants. All the people whom we saw in the midst of it are men of extraordinary size. ([Numbers 13:32](#))
- And there we saw the Nephilim, the sons of Anak, who are from the Nephilim, so that we became in our own eyes like grasshoppers, and the same way we became in their eyes. ([Numbers 13:33](#))
- A people great and tall, the sons of Anakim, about whom you yourself have known and you yourself have heard it said; Who can make a firm stand before the sons of Anak? ([Deuteronomy 9:2](#))
- Had not proved invulnerable.
- Nevertheless, it appears that the Anakim reestablished themselves in the city of **Debir**, perhaps coming in from the Philistine coast.
- No Anakim were left in the land of the sons of Israel. It was only in Gaza, in Gath and in Ashdod that they remained. ([Joshua 11:22](#))
- While Israel was temporarily at its Gilgal camp or was warring in the North.
- After that Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal. ([Joshua 10:43](#))
- Just as Yehowah had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did. He did not remove a word from all that Yehowah had commanded Moses. ([Joshua 11:15](#))
- Though Joshua's initial campaigns had served to subdue the unified resistance of enemy forces in the land of Canaan, rapidly demolishing all major strongholds, apparently this type of warfare did

not allow for the establishing of garrisons to hold the sites of all the destroyed cities.

- So, a second conquest or mopping up operation was effected at **Debir** by Othniel, who, because of distinguishing himself in the city's conquest, was given Achsah, the daughter of veteran warrior Caleb, as a wife.
- And to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share in the midst of the sons of Judah at the order of Yehowah to Joshua, namely, Kiriath-arba, said Arba being the father of Anak, that is to say; Hebron. (**Joshua 15:13**)
- So Caleb drove away from there the three sons of Anak, namely, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai, those born of Anak. (**Joshua 15:14**)
- Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of **Debir**. Now the name of Debir before that was Kiriath-sepher. (**Joshua 15:15**)
- And Caleb proceeded to say; Whoever strikes Kiriath-sepher and does capture it, I shall certainly give him Achsah my daughter as a wife. (**Joshua 15:16**)
- At that Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, captured it. Accordingly he gave him Achsah his daughter as a wife. (**Joshua 15:17**)
- And it came about that when she was going home, she kept inciting him to ask a field from her father. Then she clapped her hands while upon the ass. At this Caleb said to her; What do you want? (**Joshua 15:18**)
- So she said; Do give me a blessing, for it is a piece of land to the south you have given me, and you must give me Gullath-maim. Accordingly he gave her Upper Gullath and Lower Gullath. (**Joshua 15:19**)
- And they marched on from there against the inhabitants of **Debir**. Now the name of Debir before that was Kiriath-sepher. (**Judges 1:11**)
- Then Caleb said; Whoever strikes Kiriath-sepher and does capture it, why, I will give him Achsah my daughter as a wife.

**(Judges 1:12)**

- And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, got to capture it. For that he gave him Achsah his daughter as a wife. **(Judges 1:13)**
- And it came about that while she was going home, she kept inciting him to ask a field from her father. Then she clapped her hands while upon the ass. At this Caleb said to her; What do you want? **(Judges 1:14)**
- So she said to him; Do grant me a blessing, for it is a southern piece of land you have given me, and you must give me Gulloth-maim. Accordingly Caleb gave her Upper Gulloth and Lower Gulloth. **(Judges 1:15)**
- It cannot be ascertained precisely when in Israel's history this second conquest occurred. The book of Judges opens with the phrase **after** the death of Joshua, and the account of Caleb's taking **Debir** follows thereafter.
- And they marched on from there against the inhabitants of **Debir**. Now the name of **Debir** before that was Kiriath-sepher. **(Judges 1:11)**
- Then Caleb said; Whoever strikes Kiriath-sepher and does capture it, why, I will give him Achsah my daughter as a wife. **(Judges 1:12)**
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- This, according to some, would make Judah's conquest of **Debir** subsequent to Joshua's death and would mean that the similar account found at;

- And to Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a share in the midst of the sons of Judah at the order of Yehowah to Joshua, namely, Kiriath-arba, said Arba being the father of Anak, that is to say; Hebron. (**Joshua 15:13**)

- So Caleb drove away from there the three sons of Anak, namely, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai, those born of Anak. (**Joshua 15:14**)

- Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of **Debir**. Now the name of Debir before that was Kiriath-sepher. (**Joshua 15:15**)

- And Caleb proceeded to say; Whoever strikes Kiriath-sepher and does capture it, I shall certainly give him Achsah my daughter as a wife. (**Joshua 15:16**)

- At that Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's brother, captured it. Accordingly he gave him Achsah his daughter as a wife. (**Joshua 15:17**)

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- So she said; Do give me a blessing, for it is a piece of land to the south you have given me, and you must give me Gulloth-maim. Accordingly he gave her Upper Gulloth and Lower Gulloth. (**Joshua 15:19**)

- Was a later addition to the book bearing Joshua's name. However, others view;

- And after the death of Joshua it came about that the sons of Israel proceeded to inquire of Yehowah, saying; Who of us will go up first to the Canaanites to fight against them? (**Judges 1:1**)

- As only a formal introduction to connect it with the book of Joshua, arguing that Caleb would hardly wait for years until Joshua

died before driving the Anakim from his promised possession. Hence, they consider the Judges account to be a restatement of that in Joshua.

- Various suggestions have been put forth by Biblical scholars regarding the location of **Debir** in the mountainous region of Judah. In the past it was identified with **Tell Beit Mirsim**, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) West-Southwest of Hebron. However, now it is identified with Khirbet Rabud, about 13 kilometers (8 miles) Southwest of Hebron.
- **Debir's** ancient name, **Kiriath-sepher**.
- Then he went up from there to the inhabitants of **Debir**. Now the name of **Debir** before that was **Kiriath-sepher**. (**Joshua 15:15**)
- And they marched on from there against the inhabitants of **Debir**. Now the name of **Debir** before that was **Kiriath-sepher**. (**Judges 1:11**)
- Means, **Town Of The Book**. This has led some to conjecture that **Debir** was the center of Canaanite religious and legal learning and a place where public registers were kept.