While Chevron is most well known for the Tomb of the Patriarchs – Ma'arat HaMachpelah, there are believed to be three other tombs located in the city, those of Yishai and Ruth, Otniel ben Knaz and Avner ben Ner.

Rabbi Menachem Mendel of Kamenitz, considered the first hotelier in the Land of Israel, wrote in his 1839 book Sefer Korot HaItim:

"Here I write of the graves of the righteous to which I paid my respects. Chevron... described above is the character and order of behavior of those coming to pray at the Cave of HaMachpelah. I went there, between the stores, over the grave of Avner ben Ner and was required to pay a Yishmaeli – the grave was in his courtyard – to allow me to enter. Outside of the city I went to the grave of Otniel ben Kenaz and, next to him, are laid to rest nine students in niches in the wall of a shelter standing in a vineyard. I gave 20 pares to the owner of the vineyard. Also in the vineyard was a shelter with two graves: one of Yishai, father of David, and one of Ruth, the Moabite. I gave the vineyard owner 20 pares."

The tomb of Yishai and Ruth is an ancient structure located within the ruin of Deir Al Arba'een in the Tel Rumeida section of Chevron. A small synagogue in the room adjacent to the tomb receives visitors throughout the year, especially on Shavuot when Megillat Rut is read. The roof provides a panoramic view of the Old City. Rabbinic tradition describes Jesse as one of four righteous men who died free of sin and one of 10 who entered the Garden of Eden during their lifetimes.

This could be an allusion to Yishai’s burial in Chevron as the Ma’arat HaMachpelah is described as an entrance to the Garden of Eden.
About 200 meters west of Beit Hadassah, at the top of a rocky incline, is a burial cave. A five-minute walk from the intersection known today as Policeman’s Square, is a multi-chambered burial cave, corresponding to how the Mishna, in Bava Batra 101, describes the traditional burial practices of the Jewish people in that time period.

Throughout the generations, it has been revered as the tomb of Otniel Ben Knaz, brother (kinsman) of Calev and the first judge of Israel. Otniel was considered a heroic leader who brought the Jewish people back to their roots after the death of Joshua. The site has been mentioned by many travelers over the generations.

In Shmuel II 3:32, the burial of Avner ben Ner is described: “And they buried Avner in Chevron, and the king raised his voice and wept on Avner’s grave, and all the people wept.”

According to a medieval Jewish tradition, he was buried near Ma’arat HaMachpelah. Avner ben Ner was King Shaul’s cousin and commander-in-chief. After Shaul died in battle, Avner appointed his son, Ishboshet, as king, leading to rival factions being created.

The head of Shaul’s son, Ishboshet, was said to be buried by Avner’s grave, as described in Shmuel II 4:12: “And David commanded the young men, and they slew them... and hanged them up beside the pool in Chevron. But the head of Ishboshet they took and buried in the grave of Avner in Chevron.”