


To believe or not believe the promise of God

Numbers 13:16 – 14:4


Presented by Bob DeWaay
March 21, 2010



The mission to spy out the land

- **Numbers 13:17 - 19**

When Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, he said to them, “Go up there into the Negev; then go up into the hill country. See what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many. How is the land in which they live, is it good or bad? And how are the cities in which they live, are they like open camps or with fortifications?”



The mission was in late summer

- **Numbers 13:20**

“How is the land, is it fat or lean? Are there trees in it or not? Make an effort then to get some of the fruit of the land.” Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes.



The go from south to north

■ **Numbers 13:21, 22**

So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, at Lebo-hamath. When they had gone up into the Negev, they came to Hebron where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmi, the descendants of Anak were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)



Eschol means "cluster"

■ **Numbers 13:23, 24**


Then they came to the valley of Eschol and from there cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes; and they carried it on a pole between two men, with some of the pomegranates and the figs. That place was called the valley of Eschol, because of the cluster which the sons of Israel cut down from there.



They bring back their findings


■ **Numbers 13:25, 26**

When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days, they proceeded to come to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the sons of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land.

 The report turns negative


■ **Numbers 13:27, 28**

Thus they told him, and said, “We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there.”

 Conflicting advice


■ **Numbers 13:30, 31**

Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.” But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us.”

 They purposely instill fear


■ **Numbers 13:32**

So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, “The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size.”

 The Nephilim live in Canaan


■ **Numbers 13:33**

“There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

 A universal rebellion against God’s plan


■ **Numbers 14:1, 2**

Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and the whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!”

 They attribute an evil motive to Yahweh


■ **Numbers 14:3, 4**

“Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” So they said to one another, “Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.”

 Caleb believed God's promises


■ **Numbers 14:24**

But My servant Caleb, because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it.

 Joshua was also faithful

■ **Numbers 14:30**

Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

 Applications and Implications

- 1) Only infallible spokespersons for God can give valid vision
- 2) The promises of God define our vision and under gird our faith

1) Only infallible spokespersons for God can give valid vision

■ **Proverbs 29:18**

Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, But happy is he who keeps the law.

1) Only infallible spokespersons for God can give valid vision

■ **Jeremiah 14:14**

Then the Lord said to me, "The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds."

1) Only infallible spokespersons for God can give valid vision

■ **Jeremiah 23:16**

Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the Lord."

1) Only infallible spokespersons for God can give valid vision

■ **Habakkuk 2:3**

“For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.”

2) The promises of God define our vision and under gird our faith

■ **Hebrews 11:8, 9**

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;

2) The promises of God define our vision and under gird our faith

■ **Hebrews 11:24, 25**

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

2) The promises of God define our vision and under gird our faith

■ **Hebrews 13:5, 6**

Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What will man do to me?"

2) The promises of God define our vision and under gird our faith

■ **James 4:13 - 15**

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that."
