

Numbers Chapter 13

V: 1-2 The Lord speaks to Moses commanding him to send men to “search” the land of Canaan, which God is going to give to the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 1:22-26 ²²“And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, we will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come. ²³And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe: ²⁴And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eschol, and searched it out. ²⁵And they took of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, it is a good land which the Lord our God doth give us. ²⁶Notwithstanding ye would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord your God:”

- It seems that this is the people’s idea, wanting to know ahead of time – not necessarily God’s perfect will, but He allows it.
- It can be viewed two different ways: positive or negative.
- Purpose: “... *that they may search the land of Canaan*” – because God is going to give it to them.

“Search” – (H8446) “tuwr”, toor; (tour) to meander, reconnoitering, search out, spy (out), explore.

- They are to send representatives to meander through the land, take a tour and explore it – pre-view it so that they can encourage the people about the beautiful gift they are about to receive.
- Notice, their mission was not to determine if they would go or not; God has already made that determination – He is going to give it to them.

V: 3 Moses by commandment of the Lord; God’s authority, not Moses’.

- Biblical counseling – resting in the authority of God’s word.

V: 4-16 Listing the men by tribes who were sent out.

1. Shammua: “One who has heard.” “Renowned”.
2. Shaphat: “He has established justice.” “Judged”; “He hath judged”.
3. **Caleb**: “Dog”.
4. Igal: “He redeems.”
5. **Oshea**: “Salvation” - V: 16 Je-oshua:- “Yahweh delivered” / “Yahweh / God is salvation”.
6. Palti: “My deliverance.”

7. Gaddiel: "God is my good fortune."
8. Gaddi: "My good fortune."
9. Ammiel: "people of God" or "God is of my people," "my kinsman is God."
10. Sethur: (see' thuhr) "hidden."
11. Nahbi: "hidden" or "timid."
12. Geuel: "pride of God." – "Majesty of God".

Caleb / "dog" – Jabez = "Sorrow"

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 ⁹And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, because I bare him with sorrow. ¹⁰And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested."

- Jabez overcame his name.
- Later God would say that Caleb has a different spirit than the others.

V: 17-20 Take the tour, check it out:

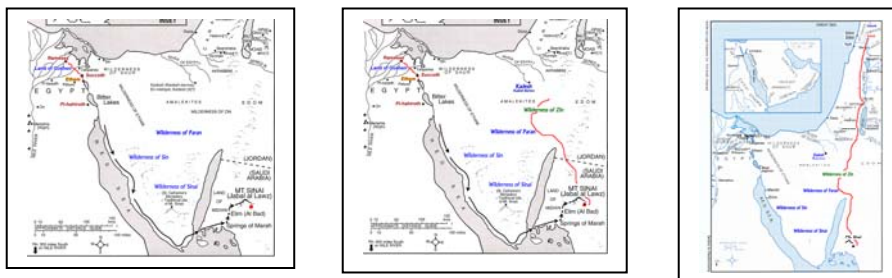
1. Are the inhabitants strong or weak?
 2. Are there many or few?
 3. Is the land good or bad?
 4. What kind of cities do they live in? Tents like us, or fortified cities?
 5. About the land; fat or lean – feast or famine – fertile and productive, or dessert?
 6. Is there wood; are there trees?
- Bring back some of the fruit – proof.
 - Time stamp: going during the harvest time, best time to show case the blessings.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 ²⁶For ye see you calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: ²⁷But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; ²⁸and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: ²⁹that no flesh should glory in his presence."

- Flip side: Inhabitants probably know they are stronger; but why do we keep getting beat?

V: 21 Travelogue:

- Moving from Mount Sinai. (Wilderness of Zin, Kadesh)
- To Taberah (“burning”, complained, burned on outskirts).
- To Kibroth Hattavah (lust 4 meat / quail)
- Onto Hazeroth in the Wilderness of Paran.



- From the Wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, which is on the way to Hamath.

V: 22 Coming South from Hamath down to Hebron where the children of Anak, the ancestors of Goliath lived.

- Zoan is mentioned in passing. It was a secret city, a private retreat for the Pharaoh’s and their immediate family. It is mentioned in relation to Hebron, one of the places where Abraham stayed for some time. Non-believers scoffed at this reference as being inaccurate until archeologist discovered its ruins buried in the sands of Egypt. Moses having been part of the royal family at one time seemed to have some inside info which once again points to the veracity of the Bible.

V: 23 At the brook Eschol, near Hebron – they cut down a branch with a cluster of grapes on it, and carry it between them on a stick.

- Meaning it’s too big for one man to carry.
- They also brought pomegranates and figs.
- Abraham – Hebron, near Mamre = “richness” & “communion with God.”

V: 24-25 Eschol: = “cluster”

- They returned after 40 days.
- 40 is the number of testing or trials.

1. **Genesis 7:2** It rained 40 days and forty nights.
2. **Exodus 24:18** Moses was on Mt. Sinai 40 days and 40 nights.
3. **Numbers 14** The children of Israel would wander in the wilderness 40 years until the unfaithful generation had died off.

V: 26-27 Returning to Moses and the congregation in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh.

- Showing them the fruit, and testifying that the promised land does surely “flow with milk and honey”.
- Speaking figuratively that it is indeed a blessed and fruitful place.
- The whole purpose of their going out to survey the land was simply to bring this testimony back to the people – to bless them, to encourage them.

V: 28-29 “Nevertheless...” First the good news and now for the bad news.

- In sending out the men to spy out the land, God knew they would see all these things, but it’s all a matter of perspective.
- Even the testimony about the Anakim, the fortified cities, and the number of inhabitants was intended to bring glory to God through the victory that He would bring.

V: 30 Caleb jumps in, intervenes: Let’s go!

Romans 8:31 “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

- Caleb is counting on the power of God to be victorious.

V: 31-33 The un-faithful spies contradict Caleb – and they contradict God.

- They go from testifying to the land flowing with milk and honey, to all they can see are the children of Anak, and the Amalakites, Jebusites, Amorites, and Canaanites.
- They are blinded by fear and suddenly the promised land becomes a place that consumes the people.
- We touched on this last week, they’ve allowed their emotion, their sin of disbelief to impair their ability to see things correctly.

V: 32b “... *all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature...*” **Not so!**

- They were completely discounting the fact that God said that He would give it to them, and that He would be with them.

- They had gone from being witnesses of God's power and love; to being messengers of gloom and doom – “*evil report*” says it all.
- Now they've gone from doubting God's word – He said the land was theirs knowing who the inhabitants were, and now they're discouraging God's people.
- All of this because of their lack of faith:
- Faith that hasn't been tested can't be trusted. God tests our faith to help us make sure it's genuine.

1 Peter 1:1-9 (turn to / read)

- The testing or exercising of our faith also helps it to grow.
- Un-belief is serious because it challenges the character of God, and it rebels against the will of God.

Hebrews 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

Romans 14:23b “... for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”

- What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

“Trust” – not “understand” – all based on relationship, history, and track record.

The moral of this story is:

Proverbs 3:5-8 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. ⁷Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. ⁸It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.”