



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

NUMBERS 13:1-3, 17-20, 25-33

THE MISSION OF TWELVE SPIES— October 24, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 12:10-16 The cloud departed from off the tabernacle and Miriam was stricken with leprosy. Aaron cries out for forgiveness to Moses (acknowledging Moses' superior position) saying, *"we have done foolishly"*, and Moses intercedes for them to God to heal Miriam. Aaron didn't want this disease to cause her to look like one that was dead. He didn't want Miriam to go through having her flesh being half consumed as a still-born would come out of the mother's womb. God considered this a serious sin and compared this to a father spitting in her face, which was the ultimate insult. Miriam had attempted to embarrass Moses publicly; in turn God embarrassed her publicly with leprosy for seven days and putting her outside the camp. Once again God was lenient, it could have been more. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again. And afterwards it was time for the Israelites to move from Hazeroth and move to pitch their tents in the wilderness of Paran

LESSON: I. SELECTION OF THE TWELVE SPIES NUMBERS 13:1-3

13:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,— When we look back at the beginning setting in Deuteronomy 1:8 God says *"I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land..."* Then verse 22 lets us know that it was the people who wanted to send men in to search the land and bring word back. And this pleased Moses to do this. So, what we see is that this was not God's idea. God's idea was to go in and possess the land, but it was the people's idea. So, in this verse we see that the LORD speaks to Moses which means that God allowed what the people wanted. The LORD is speaking to Moses giving him instructions on the first strategy about getting them ready to go into the Promised Land.

13:2 Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them. The Israelites are in Paran. Paran is a wilderness between Sinai and Canaan. They are on the verge of entering the Promised Land. But first Moses is instructed by God on their way, to first spy out the land. He is to select the men that will go and spy out the land of Canaan: One man who is a leader from every tribe was to be selected from among them. It wasn't *'if you choose to accept this mission'*, no, "you are chosen, and you will go."

13:3 And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel. Moses did as the Lord commanded him and sent the 12 spies out from the wilderness camp of Paran; all were heads; the best of the children of Israel.

II. MISSION OF THE TWELVE SPIES NUMBERS 13:17-20

13:17 And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, **Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:—** In 13:4-16, all the names of the heads of the tribes were listed. And from these leaders Moses sent out twelve spies to spy, that is, search the land of Canaan, *"The Promised Land!"* They were told to go southward into the mountain (hill country).

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13:18 And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;— They were to see what the land was like, what the people were like that lived there, whether they were strong or weak, whether there were few or many in number. Their purpose was to survey the land of Canaan and check out the people.

13:19 And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds;— They were to see whether the land was good or bad, what the cities were like, if they dwelt in tents (villages) or in strongholds (fortified).

13:20 And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes. They were to see whether the land was fat (rich) or lean (poor), whether there is wood (trees) or not, and lastly bring back a sample of the fruit (crops). This will be the mission concerning the quality of the land, and the morale of the inhabitants they are to bring back.

NOT A PART OF THE LESSON—VERSES 21-24

21So, they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath. **22**And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) **23**And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs. **24**The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence.

BACK TO LESSON

III. REPORT OF THE TWELVE SPIES NUMBERS 13:25-33

13:25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. After spying out the land for forty days, they have returned.

13:26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land. The spies have returned to the wilderness of Paran to Kadesh to show them the fruit of the land. They came before the whole congregation of the children of Israel and unto Moses with one cluster of grapes which took two men to carry on a pole, pomegranates, and figs (v.23). Looks like it was flowing with milk and honey.

13:27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it. Their report started out good in that, the land was flowing with milk and honey, exactly what God had promised! And they brought back this giant fruit to prove it.

13:28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there. The land was good, however, when they got to the people living there, there was a “But.” They saw the people as strong and powerful that dwelt there, the cities were fortified and very huge. And there’s more, the children of Anak (race of giants: Anakim) lived there.

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13:29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. Then they begin to tell all the nationality of people living in the land of Canaan— The Amalekites lived in the south. The Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites lived in the mountains. And the Canaanites lived by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. At this point, it was time for an advocate to speak, and that was Caleb, one of the spies. And there we have it: A Division!—Strong Faith vs Weak Faith. Caleb quieted the people, then assured and reassured the people that they were well able to possess the land. That meant that he didn't care who was living there, but he knew God promised the land to them and God would enable them to receive the victory told the people,

13:31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. So, again the other spies told the people, "we are not able, for the other people are stronger than we are." Faith and trust went out the window as they spoke. And the words they spoke did not have God in it anywhere. It was all about what they could not do, and doubt, disbelief, and rebellion disabled and wreaked havoc among the people at the Promised door, and caused them not to have what God had promised to be now.

13:32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. The 10 spies began to exaggerate and bring up an evil report about the land in which they searched. At the beginning of their report was that it was flowing with milk and honey. Now, they tell the children of Israel that the land ate its inhabitants. They made it out to be a difficult and dangerous place to live; even as they described the people they had seen as huge in stature. It's unbelievable that they're really saying that God would send them to such a place.

13:33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight. They claimed to have seen giants, the sons of Anak called Anakim, and they felt like grasshoppers in their own sight. And if seeing themselves as grasshoppers, the sons of Anak would see them as the same, and really they had no chance to defend themselves. As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink it.

SUMMARY:

The LORD is speaking to Moses about getting them ready to go into the Promised Land. He is going to give them instructions on the first strategy. But first Moses is instructed by God on the way to first spy out the land. He is to select the men that will go and spy out the land of Canaan: One man who is a leader from every tribe was to be selected from among them. Moses did as the Lord

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commanded him and sent the 12 spies out from the wilderness camp of Paran; all were heads of the children of Israel (13:1-3).

Moses sent twelve spies to search the land of Canaan, southward into the mountain to see what the land was like, what the people were like, whether they were strong or weak, whether there be few or many, whether the land was good or bad, what the cities were like, if they dwelt in tents (villages) or in strongholds (fortified), whether the land is fat (rich) or lean (poor), whether there is wood (trees) or not and lastly bring back a sample of the crops (13:17-20).

After spying out the land for forty days, they have returned. The spies have returned to wilderness of Paran to Kadesh to show them the fruit of the land. They came before the whole congregation of the children of Israel and unto Moses with one cluster of grapes which took two men to carry on a pole, pomegranates, and figs (v.23). Their report started out good in that, the land was flowing with milk and honey, exactly what God had promised! And they brought back this giant fruit to prove it. However, when they talked about the people, there was a “**But.**” The people living there is strong and powerful, the cities are fortified and very large. What’s more Anakim giants live there. Then they begin to tell all the nationality of people living there— The Amalekites lived in the south. The Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites lived in the mountains. And the Canaanites lived by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan. At this time Caleb, one of the spies reassured the people that they were well able to possess the land. But the other spies told the people, we are not able, for they are stronger. Faith and trust went out the window as they spoke. And the words they spoke did not have God in it anywhere. It was all about what **they** could not do, and doubt, disbelief, and rebellion wreaked among the people at the Promised door and caused them not to have what God had promised to be now. The 10 spies began to exaggerate an evil report about the land which they searched. They claimed that the land ate its inhabitants. They made it out to be a difficult and dangerous place to live, even as they described the people they had seen as huge in stature; giants, the sons of Anak called Anakim, and the spies felt like grasshoppers in their own sight, and they felt like the giants looked at them as grasshoppers, and really they had no chance to defend themselves (13:25-33).