

# “Spying Out Rather than Moving Out”

## Numbers Chapter 13

Num 13:1 **1) Selecting Spys** vs 1-24

Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying,

Num 13:2 "Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers' tribes, every one a leader among them."

- The Lord, in this passage tells Moses to send out spies to view the land. These spies are one from each tribe of Israel.
- More importantly these spies are LEADERS. (Leader = a position of authority which provides decisive guidance, direction, and prepares the way of the larger group)
- Deuteronomy 1:19-23, 29-33 Tells us a clearer picture of what was going on with this sending out spies.
- Deuteronomy 1:19-23 *"Then we set out from Horeb, and went through all that great and terrible wilderness which you saw on the way to the hill country of the Amorites, just as the LORD our God had commanded us; and we came to Kadesh-barnea. "I said to you, 'You have come to the hill country of the Amorites which the LORD our God is about to give us. 'See, the LORD your God has placed the land before you; go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has spoken to you. Do not fear or be dismayed.' "Then all of you approached me and said, 'Let us send men before us, that they may search out the land for us, and bring back to us word of the way by which we should go up and the cities which we shall enter.' "The thing pleased me and I took twelve of your men, one man for each tribe."*
  - Kadesh-Barnea is a compound word that means
    - a. Kadesh - Holy
    - b. Barnea - wavering or wandering.
  - It is interesting that just before we are about to obey God we will find ourselves in between Kadesh (Holy) and Barnea (Wandering)
    - a. The Holy was God's word to go up and take the land.
    - b. The wavering was the "Let's see for ourselves first."
  - Another error was Moses agreed to this. Here in Numbers 13 the Lord condescends to this.
- Deuteronomy 1:29-33 *" Then I said to you, 'Do not be shocked, nor fear them. 'The LORD your God who goes before you will Himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place.' "But for all this, you did not trust the LORD your God, who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way in which you should go."*
  - Moses instructed them to not be "shocked". Moses knew that there would be things that will not be expected. He said don't let fear rule but a trust in the Lord who has fought for you before and is for you now!
  - Moses also said that the Lord had already went before them.
  - But they will not walk into the HOLY and TRUST the Lord.

Num 13:3 So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran at the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the sons of Israel.

Num 13:4 These then were their names: from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur;

Num 13:5 from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori;

Num 13:6 from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh;

- He was a Kenezite. (Joshua 14:6) A Convert yet an incredible man of faith.
- Numbers 14:24 *"my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully"*

Num 13:7 from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph;

Num 13:8 from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun;

- In verse 16 we will see that Moses changes his name to Joshua.
- His original name Oshea means "salvation" Moses added "Ye" or "Yeh" which means God. Thus Moses changed his name to "God is Salvation"
- This may have been done as a reminder to the leader-spies who to focus on. God their salvation.
- **Numbers 32:12** "*Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the LORD*"

Num 13:9 from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu;  
 Num 13:10 from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi;  
 Num 13:11 from the tribe of Joseph, from the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi;  
 Num 13:12 from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli;  
 Num 13:13 from the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael;  
 Num 13:14 from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi;  
 Num 13:15 from the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi.  
 Num 13:16 These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land; but Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua.

- Joshua means "God is Salvation"
- Joshua in the
  - Hebrew is Yah-sh-ua or Yah-osh-ua (essentially the same over time the o was dropped)
  - Greek is Le-s-ous
  - Latin is Le-so-us
  - English is Je-s-us (A second English translation is Joshua)
- **Romans 10:9** "*that if you confess with your mouth Jesus {**Jehovah is Salvation**} as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved*"

Num 13:17 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.  
 Num 13:18 "See what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong *or* weak, whether they are few or many.  
 Num 13:19 "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?  
 Num 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.

- Spy Out The Land -- What did they want to know?
  - See what the Land is like? Mountains? Desert? Rivers?
  - If the people are strong or weak? Healthy? Sickly?
  - Number of people? Determines battle length if they fight
  - Is the Land good or bad? Livable? Farmable?
  - Cities are they open or fortified? Speaks to if they are used to war
  - Is land Fat or Lean? Soil - Clay? Sandy? Rich? Dry? Fertile?
  - Are there Trees? Means water and timber are available.
- They want samples.
- God has promised already these things.
  - **Exodus 3:8** "*So I have come down to deliver them from the power of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.*"
  - **Exodus 13:8** "*It shall be when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall observe this rite in this month.*"

Num 13:21 So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, at Lebo-hamath.

- Rehob and Lebo-hamath is north of Damascus in Syria

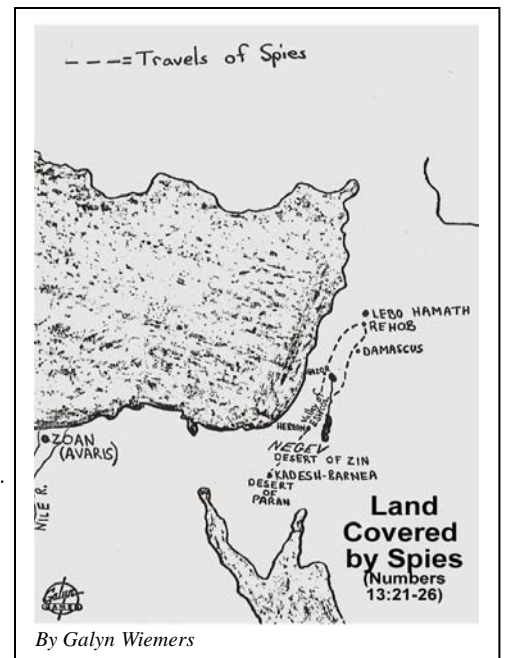
Num 13:22 When they had gone up into the Negev, they came to Hebron where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmi, the descendants of Anak were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

- Hebron is just south of where Jerusalem will be.
- Hebron means communion or fellowship.
  - When we are in fellowship with God it still means that there could be giants to be dealt with. It doesn't mean that we have no issues to deal with. It will still require FAITH to deal with these.
- Anak were the descendents of Giants.

Num 13:23 Then they came to the valley of Eshcol 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.

Num 13:24 That place was called the valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the sons of Israel cut down from there.

- Eshcol means "cluster"
- They returned with samples. A single cluster of grapes being carried between two men bearing a staff.



Num 13:25 **2) The Report from the Spys** vs 24- 33

When they returned from spying out the land, at the end of forty days,

Num 13:26 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.

Num 13:27 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.

- The Spies showed them and told them GOD TOLD THE TRUTH!

Num 13:28 "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.

Num 13:29 "Amalek is living in the land of the Negev and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites are living in the hill country, and the Canaanites are living by the sea and by the side of the Jordan."

- God tells the truth, NEVERTHELESS, Strong people, Fortified Cities, Giants.
- God tells the truth, BUT. Why do we do this? Our flesh and fear battles in our mind with the promises of God in our spirit.
- It is ok and common to have concern and be tempted with fear. But we should acknowledge the promises of God as more reliable than what our fear tells us.

Num 13:30 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."

Num 13:31 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."

- Caleb quieted the people. He them up. They were not speaking trust in God but faithlessness.
- Think of the courage to stand against the majority.
  - When we stand up for God in our workplace, school, as we witness, it takes courage. It is courage against the majority. We need Caleb's to stand up today.
  - Caleb and Joshua we outnumbered in their opinion. So are we in the world we live. We too need to be bold in our faith to silence the skeptics in our lives and proclaim boldly our faith in the promise of God.
- Romans 3:4 "Let God be true but every man a liar."

Num 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.

Num 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."

- Lies of the Spies (Speculation, and Exaggerations)
  - Land Devours its inhabitants
  - All the people. Really All?
  - It may have been true that in their OWN sight they may have been grasshoppers but they are only speculating that they were in the Nephilim's eyes.
- These leaders do two things wrong. Terrible wrongs.
  - They Disbelieve the Word of God
  - They Discourage the Saints of God+
- *Significantly, two men could see the exact same sights - the same grapes, the same men, the same land, the same cities - one can come away singing in faith, and the other is filled with a sense of certain doom. Ultimately, faith or unbelief does not spring from circumstances or environment, but from our hearts, which God must change.* (Guzik)

Hebron means Communion - sometimes it is a place where we see God's direction yet we see giants. It will take faith in Jesus to conquer them. Yet God says he gives us this place.

45 - 47 years later Caleb still wants Hebron (Joshua 15) - Communion

There are still giants there. He is willing to fight to have Communion. He was still willing to fight to have fellowship with God. There are Giants that want to keep us from fellowship. (Discouragement, Fatigue, Hurt Feelings)

We need Caleb Faith, a whole hearted faith to fight to keep fellowship with God.

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