

The Twelve Spies

Numbers 13 - 14

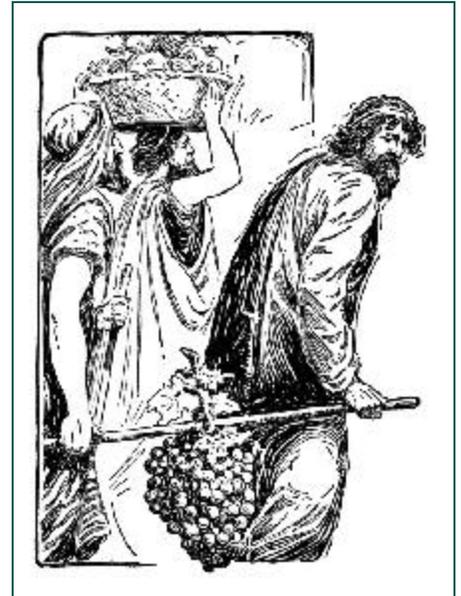
"A land flowing with milk and honey." What does that mean? Does it sound like bad land?

The LORD had promised this land to Abraham and his descendants. Moses had led the children of Israel to the border of the land.

Why won't the children of Israel live in this wonderful land for 40 more years? Why would those 20 years old and older never see this "land flowing with milk and honey?" Let's look at today's lesson for the answers.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, Please send your Holy Spirit into my heart through Your Word that we are about to study. Help me to learn not to make the same mistake Israel did and distrust You, but give me a faith like Caleb and Joshua who said, "The LORD is with us." In Jesus' name. Amen.



The Twelve Spies - Numbers 13 - 14

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel. From each of the 12 tribes you shall send one of their leaders."

So Moses sent them saying, "Go and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; whether the land they dwell in is good or bad. Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land."

So they went up and spied out the land and they returned after forty days.

They brought back word to them and showed them the fruit of the land and said, "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the

land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large."

Then Caleb, one of the leaders who had gone in to spy on the land quieted the people and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."

But the other spies said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."

And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "All the people whom we saw in it are giants of men and we look small to them."

So all the congregation wept that night and complained against Moses and Aaron. They said, "If only we had died in



the land of Egypt or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the LORD brought us to this land? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?"

So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. But Joshua and Caleb, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

All the congregation said to stone Caleb and Joshua with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel. Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they." Moses said to the LORD, "Now if You kill these people, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, 'Because the LORD

was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.' Now, I pray, let the power of my LORD be great. Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I have pardoned, according to your word, but those who are twenty years and older who have rejected Me certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers. They shall wander in the wilderness forty years - one year for every day the spies were gone. They shall die in the wilderness and their children shall know the land which they have despised. But Joshua and Caleb, because they followed Me fully, shall see the land."

The 10 spies who made a bad report died of a plague before the LORD. Joshua and Caleb survived.

Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly. But they tried to enter Canaan through the mountains.

Moses said, "Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the LORD will not be with you."

But the people went up to the mountaintop anyway. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites drove them back so they could not enter Canaan.

Outer Aim - Many of God's people did not enter the Promised Land due to their lack of trust.

What the Story Tells Us - Number the following sentences in order 1-7 how they happened in the lesson.

- _____ Moses pleaded with God for the people.
- _____ The people tried to go into the land anyway, but were kept back by the Amalekites and Canaanites.
- _____ They returned and 10 of the spies said they should not go into the land because the people were too strong. Caleb and Joshua said, "The LORD is with us. Let us go at once and take over the land. "
- _____ 12 leaders, 1 from each tribe, were sent out and told to bring back fruits of the land and a report.
- _____ God told Moses to send out spies into Canaan.
- _____ God would not let Israel go into Canaan for 40 years. Only those under age 20 would ever see the Promised Land. (Except for Caleb and Joshua)
- _____ The children of Israel listened to the bad report and wanted to stone Caleb and Joshua and go back to Egypt.

What God's Word Tells Us - Discuss the following Bible Passage and the fill in the blanks using the words from the passage.

Romans 15:4 - For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

1. This passage tell us to use the _____.
2. They were written for our _____.
3. They give us _____, _____, and _____.

Inner Aim - Our life is a time of grace and blessings to help unbelievers find Jesus, their Savior.

Passages - Fill in the blanks. Look up the passages in the Bible. (NKJV)

Numbers 14:18 - The _____ is _____ and abundant in _____, _____ iniquity and transgression.

James 5:16 - _____ your trespasses to one another, and _____ for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a _____ man avails much.

Hymn - TLH #434 v. 1-5

O God of Jacob, by whose hand
Thy people still are fed;
Who thro' this weary pilgrimage
Hast all our fathers led.

Thro' each perplexing path of life
Our wand'ring footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread
And raiment fit provide.

Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before Thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Oh, spread Thy covering wings around
Till all our wanderings cease
And at our Father's loved abode
Our souls arrive in peace.

Now with the humble voice of prayer
Thy mercy we implore;
Then with a grateful voice of praise
Thy goodness we'll adore.

Prayer

Dear Father,
We learned today how the children of Israel cut themselves off from the blessed land of Canaan by choosing not to trust in You for guidance. Help us always to remember to look to You with faith and firmly believe Your words, so that we do not miss out on any of the blessings You have in store for us. Teach us to live our lives that others may learn about You, and also take part in all the blessings You offer, especially the blessing of a Savior from sin. Amen.