



## Israel's first visit to the promise land

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### What shall we do now?

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In the book of Numbers we encounter the nation of Israel moving through the wilderness towards the promise land.

At the beginning of Chapter 13 the nation of Israel has arrived at Kadesh-Barnea. Moses sent out 12 spies and Joshua to explore the land of Canaan; to see the land, and the people if they were strong or weak, many or few. He also wanted to know the quality of the land in its fruit and its cities.

*I wonder if God was a little frustrated with the people?*

*Did it really matter what the people and the land were like?*

The spies spent 40 days in the land checking it out. They then returned with some fruit, grapes and pomegranates and figs. They found the land just as God said it would be. This proved God's truthfulness and his providence for the people.

Most of the spies said that Israel could not defeat the people in the land. They lacked faith in the promises of God. (*Gen 12:1, 12:7 and Ex 23:20-33*)

Why was Israel afraid? Because the Nephilim were in the land. The Nephilim were the children of Angels & women. (*Gen 6:4*) They were giants and great warriors.

Caleb and Joshua were the only spies who wanted to go into the land by faith in God.

*We need to believe God's promises and trust Him to do all that He says He will do.*

*How can we do this? By memorizing the promises of God and praying that He will complete them in our lives.*

When most of the spies brought back the fearful report Caleb continued to try to encourage the people to trust God. (*Num 13:30*) The men were so afraid that they made stuff up to make the people even more afraid. They said that the land devours its people; and all the people were of great size. (*Num 13:32-33*)

This made most of the Israelites very afraid! So much so that they wanted to elect a new leader and run back to Egypt. (*Num 14:4*)

When Moses and Aaron heard this they fell down on their faces and prayed to God for help. Joshua and Caleb again tried to calm the people down. (*Num 14:6-9*) What did they get for their trouble? The people were going to stone them, to kill them! (*Num 14:10*)

The situation was getting totally out of hand. The people were ready to revolt and run away.

But the faithful God appears to the whole nation and tells Moses that He will kill everyone and start over with Moses. God basically says, despite the signs; the Red Sea, the Amalakites, the manna, the quail, etc..., these people still reject me!

Moses, being a mature man of God, speaks to God on behalf of Israel again. (Num 14:9)

This act demonstrates Moses' love for the people. Moses is also very concerned about God's reputation before the Egyptians and anyone else who would hear of it. (Num 14:13-16)

God pardoned the people because of Moses' prayer.

*This is why we should pray at all times for everyone we come into contact with. You never know who you might just help make it to heaven.*

Then God said that He was going to punish the Israelites and none of them would own the land but they would all die in the wilderness all except Caleb and Joshua. God said that He would still bring their children into the land.

*This demonstrated God's mercy and love to Israel even after they had totally dissed him over and over again.*

The people realized that they had sinned and decided that they should just go ahead and take the land but it was too late and God said he would not help them take it. Moses warns the people that they would not win but they went anyway.

What happened? They got beat down by the Amalekites and the Canaanites.

What can we learn from this story?

1. Praying for someone is a life saving activity that we as Christians can do anywhere anytime.
2. God is faithful to complete His plan even when we fail Him. His grace and mercy sustain us from day to day.
3. Many times we won't understand how God will do a thing but we must go ahead, in faith, and watch Him do it.

4. Causing us to doubt God is one of Satan's greatest weapons. Trusting God is our defense to this weapon.
5. You must do things God's way for them to succeed. Doing the right thing the wrong way or at the wrong time is still wrong.

The God that we serve is loving and kind, full of mercy and grace. He loves us so much that He will discipline us to get us to do the right things.

He will bless us so much when we seek Him, trust Him and obey Him?

So what is the process we can use to follow God?

1. Pray about the issue
2. Read God's word digging to see what He has taught us about the issue.
3. If we are having a hard time figuring out what God has said about something, we need to ask a spiritually mature person to show us what God teaches in the bible about the issue. Make sure that you check it out for yourself. Don't just accept what anyone tells you unless you verify it in God's word in more than one place.
4. Pray that God would show you clearly His truth on the issue.
5. Start over at Step 1 until God answers you.