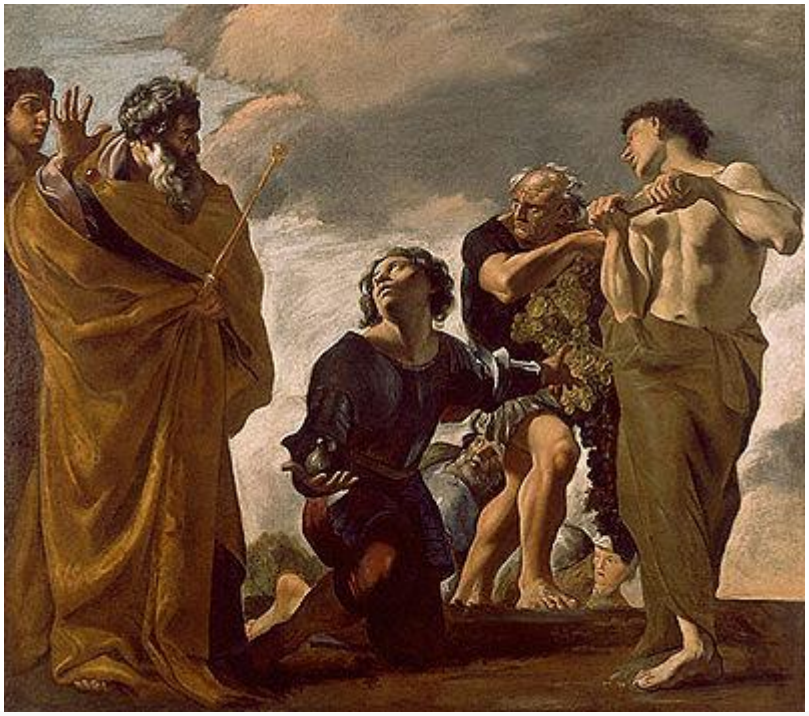
SHLACH L'CHA { שְׁלַח-לְךָ } (Send for Yourself)
Numbers 13:1-15:41, Joshua 2:1-24, Hebrews 3:7-4:1

A Messianic Jewish Commentary
By Hannah Nesher www.voiceforisrael.net



Moses and the Messengers from Canaan (painting by Giovanni Lanfranco)

"**Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, "Send out for yourself (Shlach L'cha) 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."** (Numbers 13:1-2)

This week's parashah describes the sending out of twelve spies (called '*meraglim*' in Hebrew) to check out the situation in the Promised Land before going in to take possession of it as God had commanded them. Two of the spies, Calev and Joshua, encouraged the children of Israel to go in and take the Land; but the other ten spies discouraged the people. Instead of trusting in the great power of God, they focused on the size of the giants in the land.

God instructed Moses to send out one chieftain from each of the twelve tribes of Israel to scout out the land of Canaan. Among the spies were Calev, son of Jephunneh from the Tribe of Judah and Hosea (Hoshea), son of Nun from the Tribe of Ephraim. Later, Moses changed Hosea's name to Joshua. As representatives of the tribes of Judah and Ephraim (Joseph), these two spies represented the two Kingdoms of Israel: northern Israel and southern Judah.

Although these two kingdoms became divided, the prophets of Israel spoke of a time when Judah and Israel would be re-united as one (echad) in God's hand under one

shepherd, a descendant of King David. One day, both Judah and Ephraim will dwell here in the Land together in unity under our head, Yeshua ben David (son of David) the Messiah.

"**Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time *was* the season of the first ripe grapes**." (Numbers 13:20)

It was the season of the first ripe grapes when Moses sent out the spies. Here in Israel the grapes are still tiny at the beginning of June. They will begin to ripen around mid-July in the heat of summer. Here is a picture of the grapes from our own grapevine in Ramat Raziel in Israel. Delicious!

What did Moses ask the spies to find out about the land of Canaan? He asked them to assess the geography of the land, the population of the inhabitants, their cities and forests. Finally, he asked them to go with courage and to bring back a sample of the fruit of the Land.

After forty days, they returned from spying out the Land with a cluster of grapes from the Valley of Eshcol so bountiful that they had to tie it to a pole and carry it on their shoulders. The word 'Eshcol' אשכול means 'cluster' and an 'eshcolite' is a grapefruit.

The Grapes of Canaan (watercolor circa 1896–1902 by James Tissot)

Fruit at Carmel Market in Tel Aviv www.goisrael.com

The spies also brought back pomegranates, and figs. These fruits grow in abundance today in the Land of Israel.

This fertility of the Land is a modern-day miracle! This land that lay barren and lifeless for over two thousand years is now producing fruits that are exported all over the world. The fact that the Land of Israel is fruitful again is evidence that, despite our sins, God has great mercy and grace for each one of us.

The Hebrew word for fruit is 'pri' ; and one of the two courageous spies, Joshua, was from the tribe of Ephraim, which is a derivative of this word and means 'fruitful'.

Forty – Number of Testing

Why were the spies scouting the land of Canaan for forty days? Why not a month…. or two weeks… or any other number of days? The number forty is significant in the Bible as it is the number of testing.

Yeshua was tested by the devil in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights.

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "*If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."* " (Matthew 4:1-3)

Moses was also fasting on Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights before receiving the Ten Commandments.

"**Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant--the Ten Commandments."** (Exodus 34:28)

Forty is a significant period of time in the Bible in other instances as well:

- Rain fell for "forty days and forty nights" during the Flood. (Genesis 7:4)
- Goliath challenged the Israelites twice a day for forty days before David defeated him. (1 Samuel 17:16)
    - A mikvah (Jewish ritual water immersion tank) consists of 40 *se'ah* (approximately 200 gallons) of water
    - 40 lashes is one of the punishments meted out by the Sanhedrin, though in actual practice only 39 lashes were administered.
    - One of the prerequisites for a man to study Kabbalah is that he is forty years old.
    - Forty days was the period from the resurrection of Yeshua to his ascension. (Acts 1:3)

Giants in the Land

The spies reported back to Moses, Aaron, and the Israelite community after forty days, admitting that the land does indeed flow with milk and honey; but also that the cities are fortified and that they saw 'Nephillim נְפִלִים' - sons of 'Anak' in the Land. In Hebrew, the word 'anak' (plural anakim Hebrew: עֲנָקִים) means 'giant'.

Calev tried to silence them, urging the people of Israel to go up at once to take the land, assuring them that they are '*well able'*. "**Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."** (Numbers 13:30)

Who are the Nephilim??

The other spies, however, overrode their optimistic and courage. They brought back a pessimistic, '*evil report'* of the Land, saying that it would '*devour its inhabitants'*. Rather than focusing on the good of the Land, they focused instead on the giants. What kind of report of the Land are we giving people? What do we focus on?

"And they gave the children of Israel an evil report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "**The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. There we saw the giants (Nephilim) הַנְּפִלִים and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."** (Numbers 13:32-33)

In comparison to the stature of the giants, the ten spies saw themselves as '*grasshoppers*'. Who were these 'anakim (giants)'? Also called 'Nephilim', they were descendants of the progeny of sexual unions between the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men."

"**The Nephilim הַנְּפִלִים were in the earth in those days, and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bore children to them; the same were the mighty men that were of old, the men of renown**.". (Genesis 6:4)

The Fall of the Rebel Angels by Hieronymus Bosch

The Hebrew word, '*Nephilim'* ("giants") comes from a word that means 'to fall'; therefore 'Nephilim' literally means "*fallen ones*". These "sons of God" who married the daughters of men were fallen angels. (Genesis 6:2)

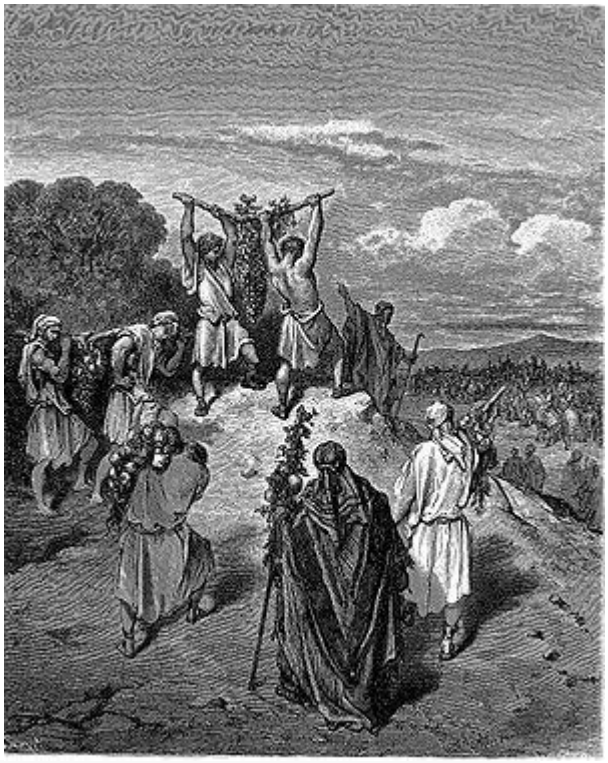
How do we know that they were fallen angels and not angels of God? The Word of God tells us that angels of heaven [God] neither marry nor are given in marriage. (Matthew 22:30) [1]

It is interesting that a similar Hebrew word with different vowels is used in the Bible to refer to Philistine warriors.[2] We know that Goliath, the giant that David fought and defeated was a Philistine and descendant of the Anakim.[3] Joshua was able to drive out all the giants out of the Land except for a remnant that remained (amongst other places) in Gaza! [4] The Hebrew word used for 'Palestinians' is the same name used for the 'Philistines' (Plishtim).

[1] Before the flood and the Nephilim by Richard Chaimberlin, Petah Tikvah Magazine
[2] Ezekiel 32:27
[3] 2 Samuel 21:15-22
[4] Joshua 11:22

Judgment – a Year for a Day

Because of their fear of the giants, the 10 spies instilled such terror in the hearts of the people that the whole Israelite community began to cry, shouting, "*If only we might die in this wilderness!*"



Return of the Spies from the Land of Promise (engraving by Gustave Doré)

"**So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!**

They became so fearful and discouraged that they doubted God's good intentions for them and lost heart, suggesting they return to Egypt.

"Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? 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." (Numbers 14:1-4)

This blatant lack of faith provoked God's wrath, and thus He condemned the Israelites to wander in the midbar (wilderness) for forty years - a year for each day that the spies were in the land.

A journey that should have taken eleven days took four decades! And even then, it ended in death and defeat; as most of the Israelites never made it into the Promised Land.

Only two men, Hoshea (Joshua) and Calev (Caleb), entered the land because they trusted wholly in the Lord. They believed that with His help, they could overcome all obstacles, defeat the giants, and take the land!

Why is this message so important? In the end times, we may be forced to re-live these tests of the Israelites in the wilderness – trusting God to protect us from our enemies and to supernaturally meet our every physical need. Therefore we must learn from their mistakes so that we and our children will not repeat them but rather pass quickly through the wilderness trials victoriously and cross over the Jordan River into the 'Promised Land'.

Lessons from the Sins of the Spies

The sin of the ten spies also teaches us a message for the Jewish people of today regarding taking their place in the Land of Israel. The following is an excerpt from Israel Center Torah Tidbits (June 23,24 '00)

"My father my teacher used to get very agitated on Shabbat Parashat Shlach and expressed his amazement at what seemed to him to be the gross ignoring of the Lessons from the Sin of the Spies

How can Jews today, religious Jews, sincere Jews, continue to commit this most heinous of sins? If you want to boil down the 'Sin of the Spies' to one trite but true expression, we can say that 10 of the 12 'meraglim' returned from their "tour" of Israel with the following reaction: *"It's a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there."* (sound familiar?)

Look at how the spies were punished. Look at what happened to the whole generation that panicked upon hearing their report and "recommendations". And then listen to how many people: good Jews, knowledgeable Jews, sincere religious Jews – say the same thing today.

There are some who will proudly show you their passports with dozens of entry and exit stamps. *"I visit Israel two or three times a year!"* they say.

"But what about Aliyah? "

"Are you kidding? I would never make Aliyah. You'd have to be crazy" …

The Mitzvah of Aliyah (Immigrating to Israel)

New Olim (immigrants) entering the Land of Israel

Anyone who considers making aliyah needs a great deal of faith and courage, like Joshua and Calev, to go in and possess the Land. In our first days after returning to the land of Israel, fears and doubts assailed my mind – fears of an unknown future in an unfamiliar land. Around this time, I accompanied my eldest daughter, Courtney on a doctor's appointment in Beit Shemesh and there, on the shelf, 'just happened' to be a book called 'The Mitzvah[5] to Live in Eretz Israel" .

Written on the cover were the words, "*Take for Free*", so I did. This book greatly encouraged me that, despite the obstacles and challenges of living in Israel, God has called us to return and He will therefore keep us. Each time difficulties threatened to overwhelm me, God would find a way to encourage me to keep pressing on in faith.

One time it was through a religious woman I picked up hitchhiking, who shared her own story. Her parents made aliyah many years ago and it was very hard for them, but now their children (including herself) are all fluent in the culture and language of the Land and very happy to live in Israel.

"*There is no better place in all the world for Jewish people to live*", she said. "*You have done the right thing in coming home to 'Eretz Yisrael' (the Land of Israel)*", she assured me. I asked if she was afraid of hitchhiking and she looked at me like I was crazy! She said, "*I am not afraid of anything in this land – not terrorists, not Arabs, not anything – because I know that God is watching over us and He will keep us safe in our Land*." I broke down and wept when I heard her comforting words.

Another time, doubts kept coming into my mind, especially when my (then) husband was denied entry into the Land. Now it seemed that I would be completely on my own here. "*Could it still be God's will for us to stay in the Land*", I wondered?

Shortly afterwards, I visited a brother in the Lord running a Christian mission for prostitutes and drug addicts in Tel Aviv. There on the wall was a poster with a scripture that read,

"***I will plant you in this Land, never again to be uprooted from the Land I have given you.***" (Amos 9:15)

Again, God strengthened my faith and determination that even though we had failed in the past, that this time our roots would go deep enough to keep us here. It takes radical faith to believe God for the strength, courage, and provision to make aliyah. We all need encouragement to press on in faith.

The spies were faulted for attempting to remove the issue of 'aliyah' from the agenda of the Jewish people. They discouraged the people from fulfilling the will of God. This was Calev's point: "*If this is God's will, then of course we will be able to succeed."*

[5] Mitzvah – commandments or good deed. I have since misplaced this book and don't remember the name of the author.

Living by Faith

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Not all of us are called to live in the land of Israel; but there is an important lesson to be gained from this parashah for all of us – and that is FAITH!

What is faith? Faith is defined in the Bible as, "**The substance of which we hope for but do not yet see.**"(Hebrews 11:1) If we can see it, we no longer need faith.

We cannot say, as does the world, "*I'll believe it when I see it*." No, we are Kingdom people who say, "*I believe it, therefore according to the Word of God, I will see it.*"

I'm not suggesting that we can just '*name it and claim it'* and everything will be perfect. We know that there are some situations that we just can't fix; and God is not some kind of magic 'Genie' that automatically grants us our every request. And yet, He does want us to trust Him in every situation and for every challenge. Even in seemingly 'hopeless' circumstances, we always have the hope of eternity where everything will be perfect forever!

Why is faith so important? The Word of God tells us, "**Without faith, it is impossible to please God."** (Hebrews 11:6)

Our Aliyah Story – Journey to Jerusalem

Before leaving Canada to make aliyah to Israel, we heard many 'evil reports' about the land – that it surely "devours its inhabitants." We determined not to let these reports discourage us, and even decided that when the number of evil reports reached ten (the number of negative spies), it was time to go! But, we soon discovered that there surely are giants in the land; and that these reports were not false.

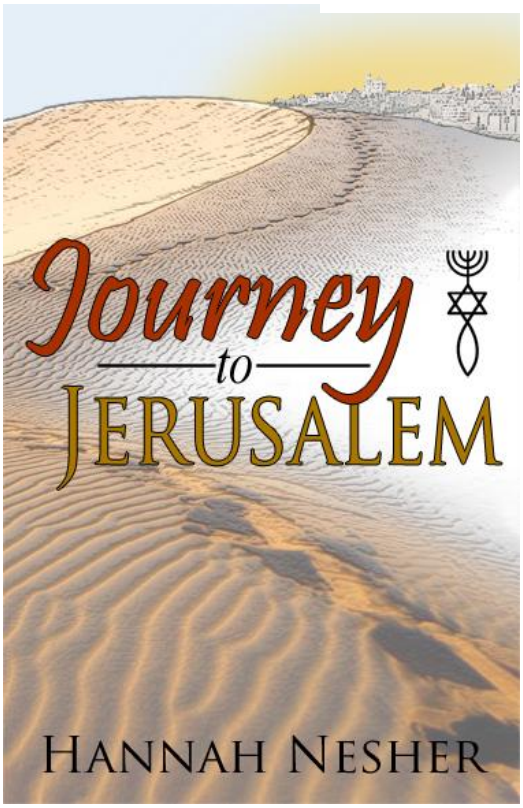
I well remember facing one of the most formidable giants of them all, named '*Misrad Hapnim*' (Ministry of the Interior); only to be told that they would not grant me citizenship because of my faith in Yeshua. After hearing of their refusal to grant us citizenship I felt very discouraged.

We had been living in Netanya (a beautiful coastal city) at the time, enjoying our 'honeymoon'![6] To think that we would be denied our right to live here in the Promised Land because we followed Yeshua the Messiah? Unthinkable!

I ran down the steps to the sea, fell on my face in the sand, and wept, crying out to God – *"Why did you call us home and bring us all this way only to send us back into exile in defeat?*"

[6] We married in February of 1998 and moved to Israel in December of the same year

That evening, we went to a Messianic kehilla (congregation) and guess what was the parashah? Of course, it was Shlach L'cha, the exact same one we are studying this Shabbat. The elder of the congregation gave a stirring message, exhorting us to have faith in a great and mighty God. We were not the only ones facing tremendous trials and difficulties in the land. The giants battle against all people here; but they especially war against those who keep God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Yeshua. [7]



The Holy Spirit convicted me deeply of my sin of unbelief; I repented, and held firm by faith to God's promises in His eternal word for our place of inheritance in this land. You may know the rest of the story from my book, Journey to Jerusalem [8]

By a miracle, Misrad Hapnim did, in fact finally grant our citizenship. This was not the end of our battles; but in a way only the beginning. Just as Joshua and the children of Israel faced many enemies within the Promised Land, so did we have much to overcome. And the story continues…..

This is a lesson for all of us, not just for citizenship in the land of Israel, but for every giant, every challenge, and every problem that we face on a daily basis. We must not cave in to discouraging reports from negative people or become fearful over the scary things we see happening in our world all around us.

If you feel like you're sinking – don't look down! Look up to Yeshua, who is ever ready to extend His saving hand to us, for He knows our weaknesses. Yeshua rebuked Peter, saying, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31)

Yeshua told the disciples that they were not able to cast out the demon because of their own unbelief. He said that if we have faith as a tiny as a mustard seed, we will say to the mountain to move and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for us. [9]

Many of us, including myself, need to trust God for what may seem impossible in the natural. We must take a lesson from the Israelites and beware of indulging in the sin of unbelief. God was not well pleased with most of the Israelites, and for this reason,

[7] Revelation 12:17
[8] You can order Journey to Jerusalem and other books & DVD's from our website: www.voiceforisrael.net
[9] Matthew 17:20

most of their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. [10] We certainly do not want to share this same fate! We are warned not to complain as some of them also complained, and were therefore destroyed.

Kvetching is Contagious [11]

"**Now when the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard it, and His anger was aroused."** (Numbers 11:1)

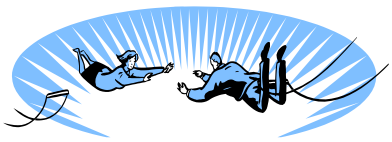
It is faith that pleases God, not whining, murmuring and complaining. While living in Ariel (a city in Samaria, Israel) I witnessed an example of the destructiveness of complaining and unbelief. We paid home visits to several people experiencing serious problems in their lives. One, a single mother from Leningrad, had her son apprehended by Israeli Social Services on charges of child abuse, an accusation that was completely false she insisted. Upon hearing her story, I wept with compassion at all the trials and difficulties she had been through.

Later, however, as I thought about our conversation, I realized that everything she said about Israel was negative. The land is bad, the people are awful, the busses make her sick, it's too hot, she can't find work here; the kids are always ill, and on and on it went. She claimed that everything was wonderful in Leningrad and she made a mistake to come here to Israel. After listening to her – and she had some real valid complaints – I almost felt like getting out of the country ASAP!

Negativity is a dangerous and contagious disease which brings death and destruction. Have you ever noticed that some people just seem to attract more than their fair share of trouble? Could it be that we bring at least some of these things upon ourselves by the fearful, negative, faith-less thoughts we think and words we speak?

Complaining is the opposite of thankfulness. We can choose to complain or choose to find something to be thankful about. We can always find something to complain about (there is never a shortage of 'kvetching' material to choose from); but the Word tells us to focus on whatever is good, right, true, lovely, and of 'good report'. Let's endeavor to be people of the "good report' and not the evil one.

"**Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things**." (Philippians 4:8)



Faith may be compared to a trapeze act in a circus. One stands on a thin bar high in the air, sometimes blindfolded, waiting to hear the call to jump. The acrobat must instantly leap – with absolute trust that the one at the other end will catch her or him securely. It may even be a matter of life or death!

[10] 1 Corinthians 10:5
[11] Kvetching – a Yiddish expression for complaining

We are called to 'fight the good fight of faith'.[12] The real giant we are battling is a spirit of fear – the fear of the unknown. "*Will it work out? Will God really come through for me*? *What if I fail or lose the battle*?"

We are Well Able

Where the battle is the most intense is 'in the middle' – in transition – when we've left where we've been and have not yet arrived at where we're going to be. We have left Egypt but have not yet arrived in Canaan. We're saved but not yet walking in the promises of the Word.

The temptation is to doubt and fall into unbelief, complaining, and negativity. The only way we will ever reach the 'Promised Land' is by keeping an attitude of faith no matter what the circumstances look like. We must take hold of God's Word and obey His command to be strong and of good courage. It is God's perfect love which casts out fear.[13] Knowing how much God loves us makes it easier to trust in His care.

Much depends upon the words we speak – death and life may be found in the power of the tongue. (Proverbs 18:21) We must also be careful about the words to which we listen! We can choose to listen to either faith-filled messages from the Word of God, or to the evil reports in the media or from fearful, negative-minded companions.

The ten spies admitted, **"Yes, the land does flow with milk and honey and here is the fruit, but….there are huge giants!"** (Numbers 13:27-28)

The Two Reports of the Spies (illustration from Bible card published 1907 by Providence Lithograph Company)

BUT is a small word but its potential to destroy hope and dreams is immense! I have a vision to do this, but.... The spies spoke truth but in a way that demoralized the people. Joshua and Calev also saw the giants – they did not live in denial - but they kept their eyes fixed on God's supernatural ability.

We can focus on the size and strength of our enemy or on the size and strength of our God. Instead of telling God how huge our enemies are, we should be telling our enemies how mighty our God is!

Calev said, "**let us go up at once**!" (Numbers 13:30) He didn't procrastinate to do the will of God - like Abraham, who went up to Mt. Moriah at once to bring his son, Isaac to the place of sacrifice. Waiting can bring on reasoning and our heads can talk out hearts out of doing God's will.

[12] 1 Timothy 6:12
[13] 1 John 4:18

A Different Spirit

The Word of God says that two of the spies, Calev and Joshua, were of a 'different spirit'. What was that difference between them and the rest of the spies? Here is the one thing that made all the difference: Calev and Joshua spoke faith, saying, "We are **well able** to overcome it."; while the other ten spies spoke doubt, saying, "We are **not able**……" (Numbers 13:30-31)

There are two types of people: the '*we are well able'* people; and the '*we are not able..*' people. I need to ask myself, "*What kind of a person am I*?" I would like to say I am the positive, courageous, optimistic kind; but it is very likely that I more often resemble the other. I often need to remind myself that "**I can do all things through Messiah who strengthens me.**" (Philippians 4:13)

Like Joshua and Calev, we can choose to be a positive, faith-filled, person who encourages others to be strong and of good courage. We must beware of pessimistic, fear-filled, negative, 'kvetchers' (complainers). They can destroy our faith!

Sometimes the only thing wrong with our life is that we've been spending too much time with people like the ten spies who are more than happy to tell us the 'buts' of why we are not able. When we've been under an oppressive *'slave type' of* situation for any length of time (like the Israelites), such as: control, domination, abuse or manipulation; we may have a tendency to think only of why we can't do this or that rather than the possibilities - our confidence has been shattered.

We have to build ourselves up again. Speaking daily positive affirmations, reading inspiring biographies, and listening to faith-filled messages and beautiful worship music, will all help to strengthen our faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.[14]

Forming new associations with positive people of faith may be necessary. We must beware of hanging out with 'slaves' who want to go back into bondage and are afraid of the challenges of freedom. Eagles don't belong in the chicken yard, squawking and running for cover of the chicken coop in fear. Eagles soar higher - on the winds above the storms.

Overcomers Inherit the Kingdom

Only overcomers will inherit the Kingdom. Look at the huge rewards that overcomers will receive: [15]

- privilege of eating from the tree of life in Paradise,
- protection from the second death
- hidden manna to eat
- a new name written on a white stone,
- power over the nations
- clothed in white garments
- name in the book of Life,
- the right to sit with the Lord on His throne.

[14] Romans 10:17
[15] : Revelation 2:7, 11,17,26; 3:5,21)

Deliverance from Fear

We must learn to overcome fear and walk in faith. Only those who walk in faith rather than fear will be fit for the Promised Land. All those who caved in to fear (cowards) died in the wilderness.

Cowards also will not enter the Kingdom.[16] We can confess Scriptures and fill our hearts with faith. We can write these words out and put them on our doorposts and our gates, to remind us daily to be strong and of good courage for the Lord our God is with us! Halleluyah!

"**God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.**" (2 Timothy 1:7)

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

" Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world." (1 John 4:4)

Deliverance: Sometimes, an evil, tormenting spirit of fear can gain entrance into our life and attempt to control us. Oftentimes, these or other spirits of darkness (anger, lust, etc.) find an open door through generational or personal sin. Perhaps our parents allowed us to watch a horror movie as a child. Some of the TV and movies that people watch may inspire fear.

We may need to renounce this spirit of fear and pray for deliverance from it in the powerful name of Yeshua! Then we need to believe in our heart and confess with our mouth, "I am well able." I can do all things through the Messiah who strengthens me.

Like young David speaking bold words of faith as he ran towards the mighty Goliath, we must never run against a giant with our mouth closed. Many of us have been silenced through people shutting us down; but we must open our mouths and speak God's word over our every challenge. We must stop speaking the problem; instead speak the word of God over that situation.

Build up a record of victories: King Saul tried to dissuade David from fighting the giant, saying, "*You are not able*…" (1 Samuel 17:33) His brothers accused him of acting out of ego. His father didn't even consider him when Samuel asked to see all his sons to choose the next King of Israel. Now how bad is that? When your own father just leaves you out with the sheep and doesn't even consider you a possibility for success!?

But David had already experienced times of victory with God and he called upon those memories to gird him with courage greater than any heavy armor. He said, '*God has helped me kill a lion and a bear and God will help me kill this giant too.*[17]'

It is essential that we build up a history of successes with God. We can keep a memory box or scrapbook of times when God helped us, healed us, protected us,

[16] Revelation 21:8
[17] 1 Samuel 17:34-37

saved us, or provided for us that will build our faith as we review all the great things God has done for us in the past.

Recently I heard a message about trusting God for financial provision. They asked for personal stories so that night I sat down and wrote out just a few of the many, many ways that God supernaturally provided for us when we made aliyah to Israel. At the end, I was amazed all over again at the incredible faithfulness of God and encouraged to trust Him even more.

The Little Engine that Could

I used to read a story to my children about a small train engine called The Little Engine that Could [18]. Perhaps you have also read this well known book to your children too. It is about a little engine who wanted to do something great but encountered difficulties along the way. Rather than allowing these obstacles to 'stop him in his tracks', however, he overcome the challenge and went on to victory.

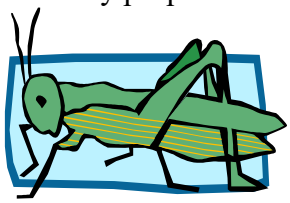
Like this little but courageous engine, we can keep repeating to ourselves, "*I think I can, I think I can, I think I can...*" There are times when it seems that all is lost – like when the avalanche lands on the little engine and it looks like his fire has been completely extinguished. It is at these times that cruel voices of accusation and self-doubt assault us saying, "*You're too little! Too weak! You'll never make it!*"

We can believe it and think, "*They're right. I can't do it. I'll never make it. I guess I might as well go back ……(to whatever oppression and bondage of which we came out).* But then we see the tiny glow of a small light. And the little engine comes back to life and completes his mission of bringing toys to the children.

Yeshua has the power to resurrect us to life from the dead. If we have faith small as a mustard seed….nothing will be impossible ….

Lashon Harah

The ten spies spread an evil report of the land which the rabbis considered the sin of slander against God's land. This sin of slander is called in Hebrew Lashon Harah.[19] It was this same sin that brought God's judgment upon Miriam, Moses' sister (she was struck with leprosy). We must be very careful of spreading malicious gossip about others, especially those that God has sanctified and set apart for His holy purposes.



The ten spies also spoke slander about themselves, claiming that they saw themselves as grasshoppers - and so others saw them that way too.[20] How we see ourselves is how we project ourselves to others. Our self image is very important.

[18] Book by Watty Piper
[19] Lashon harah – literally translated 'evil or bad tongue'
[20] Numbers 13:33

Scum of the Earth and Dead Dogs

When I began a new job of teaching English in an Israeli public school, I was so nervous on my first day of work. I walked into the bathroom and there was a poster of a lion looking at himself in the mirror and the sign read, "*How you see yourself is very important*." How do we see ourselves? How do we speak about ourselves?

How many people do you know that, on a continual or frequent basis, put themselves down – they basically slander themselves saying things like, "I'm so stupid; I'm fat, ugly, old; I can't do anything right'; I always screw up; I'm hopeless…." The list of insults with which to slander ourselves is limitless (as most of us are painfully aware).

I write to several Messianic brothers who are incarcerated in American prisons and was saddened to read, in one letter, how a brother in Yeshua called himself a '*scum of the earth prisoner*'. Yes, he is in prison; yes, he has committed a crime – made a mistake – but does that make him the scum of the earth? Absolutely not! He is a son of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

There was a man in the Bible who also perceived himself as the 'scum of the earth'. Mephiboshet[21], crippled son of Johnathan, son of King Saul, called himself a *'dead dog'* instead of a covenant son of royalty. His name means, "*From the mouth of shame*."

Illustration from the Morgan Bible of Mephibosheth kneeling before David.

Mephiboshet even lived in a place called Loh Davar, which in Hebrew means, *'no thing'*. Mephiboshet saw himself as a nobody from nowhere; and I suspect that many of us see ourselves that way too. But King David, a type of the Messiah, sought out someone from Johnathan's family whom he could bless. He brought Mephiboshet to the Royal Palace to eat forever from His table and to receive the lands which were rightfully his.

Yeshua is seeking covenant sons and daughters that He can bless also. God is longing to be gracious to us as well. It's time to move from Loh Davar to the palace and dine at the King's table. It's time to see ourselves as God's segulah (special treasure), created in God's image (carrying a spark of God's divine presence – Shechinah).

The balance to this is that although we are not to see ourselves as grasshoppers or dead dogs, we are also not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. It is a paradox to know that, although we are created in the image of the Almighty God and His highest creation, we are also warned that without Him, we can do nothing.

With God all things are possible. God plus one makes a majority.

[21] 2 Samuel 4:4

Adding God (Yah) makes all the difference

Adding God to our situation makes all the difference. What made Joshua and Caleb different? The Word says that they possessed a different spirit.[22] They followed God wholeheartedly. They had also been slaves; also endured the hardship and oppression of Egypt, but they chose to be overcomers through faith.

What kind of spirit do we have? We need to have a different spirit than the rest of the world that is succumbing to fear – of financial collapse, plagues, natural diasters and terrorism. We are different than the world; and God makes a distinction between His covenant children and those outside His protection.

Joshua used to be called Hoshea but then God changed it to Y'hoshua[23] by adding the tiniest of the Hebrew letters – the yud. It is a letter that stands for Yah, a name for God. [24] Adding the yud brought God into the picture. With God all things are possible.

Disasterizing & Other Victim Mentalities

The children of Israel stand as a stark warning to us as God's children. They confessed their fear instead of their faith – they predicted the worst possible outcome – something we often do which is called 'disasterizing'.

They cried, "…**our wives and out little ones will be a prey (victims)."**

"So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "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 to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? 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." (Numbers 14:1-4)

We may note that not all crying and weeping is pleasing to God. Could at least some of our weeping actually be evidence of our unbelief? We can be joyful in hope; rather than weeping in fear.

The problem with the Israelites was that they still saw themselves not as free people, but as victims. Years of bondage in Egypt caused them to hold a victim mentality rather than attitude of a victor. They expected the worst. Negative expectation will never bring a positive result.

What are we expecting? Are we expecting to see God's goodness in the land of the living? Are we expecting that our teenager is going to turn out okay and that our

[22] Numbers 14:24
[23] Numbers 13:16
[24] See Shalom Morah I (Hebrew names of God) & II (Wisdom from the Hebrew Alphabet), a set of DVD's teaching beginner's Hebrew

children will serve the Lord? Or are we expecting that our families are going to be just 'prey' for the enemy?

Are we expecting to go broke? To get cancer and die early? Or are we expecting to prosper even in a famine and to be in good health even as our soul prospers? It is so important to maintain a positive expectation, a positive confession, trusting in the goodness and the power of God.

We must renew our minds in the word of God and know that we are more than conquerors in Him. He always leads us in triumph in Messiah Yeshua. He will cause all things to work together for our good.

What comes out of our mouth usually begins in our mind – what are we thinking about and meditating on? The real battle is in the mind – we must gain control of our negative and destructive thoughts and bring them into alignment with the Truth of the Word of God. This is how our lives will be radically transformed – by the renewing of our mind:

"**And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**" (Romans 12:2)

Let's go Back…

The Israelites looked back in regret, "**If only we had died in the Land of Egypt…If only we had died in the wilderness**…[25] If only we hadn't listened to Moses...." We can drive ourselves crazy with the 'if only's"

When things got tough, they wanted to go back. They cried, " Let us select a leader and return to Egypt." (Numbers 14:4)

Fear wants to drive us back into bondage. We made this same mistake ourselves. When the Ministry of Interior gave orders to my husband to leave the country[26] we gave up and went back to Canada instead of entering into a battle for our inheritance.

When we move into something new, we must never look back and say, "*Oh, it was better for me back there.*" We are likely seeing things with 'rose-colored glasses' with a distorted view or memory. There is always the tendency to want to go back to what was familiar, thinking it wasn't really that bad!

No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God.[27] Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt.[28] We will also be paralyzed if we look back. The prophet Isaiah wrote, "**Forget the former things….Behold I do a new thing…**." (Isaiah 43:18-19) We must look to the new and good thing that God has for our lives, pressing on in faith.

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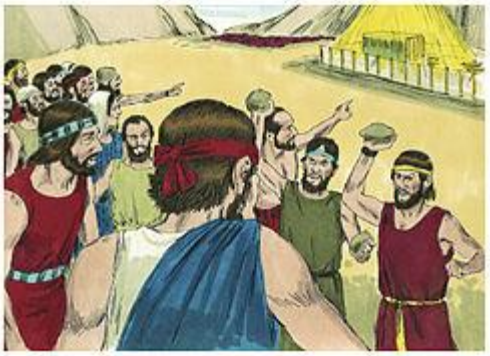
[25] Numbers 14:2
[26] In 2003
[27] Luke 9:62
[28] Genesis 19:26

Joshua & Calev tried to inspire faith in the people. Oh, how we need people like this who see the possibilities, not the obstacles. We can determine to be this sort of a person for others. They said, "**Do not rebel against the Lord; neither fear the people of the Land. They are bread for us (lachmeinu hem);"**

Like the manna (their bread) their enemies would just melt away. We need not fear the giants; they are bread for us. "**Their protection has departed from them and The Lord is with us. Do not fear them**." (Numbers 14:9)

But the congregation would not listen; they tried to stone the messengers of faith. Not everyone wants to receive a message about faith; they want to stay stuck in fear and their victim mentality, and then blame it all on God.



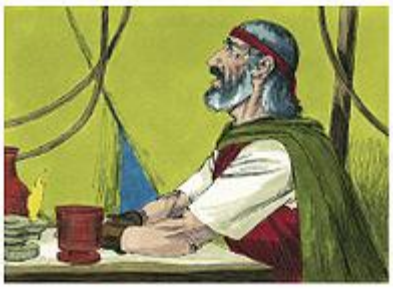
God responded in anger and frustration, "**How long will this people despise Me? And how long will they not believe in (have faith – ya'amin) Me, after all the signs and wonders I have shown them?" (**Numbers 14: 11)

The People Were About To Stone the Two Spies When the Light of God Appeared over the Tabernacle (1984 illustration by Jim Padgett, courtesy of Sweet Publishing)

We show our love for God by refusing to give in to fear, doubt and unbelief but maintaining our faith in Him. When we give into fear, it's as if we despise God and don't believe in Him. We are called 'Believers' because we are supposed to actually believe in and trust God.

God actually threatened to strike them all down with pestilence and to disinherit the people of Israel, offering to start over again with Moses and make a new nation with him. (Numbers 14:12)

But Moses refused the generous offer and pleaded for God to save the nation of Israel and bring them into the Land. Moses was called the most humble man on face of the earth. Does the Christian Church walk in this humility or are they content to say, "*That's right God, the Jews blew it, so go ahead and start over again with us. We, the Church, will be the 'new Israel'*



Moses Prayed and God Changed His Mind (1984 illustration by Jim Padgett, courtesy of Sweet Publishing)

This is a false doctrine called 'Replacement Theology'. We are called to walk in humility and to contend with God for His promises for Israel. Like Moses, we can appeal to the nature and character of God as "*rav chessed*" full of mercy & grace. [29]

[29] Numbers 14:15-18

Prophecy life!

God said, "**Just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you. The carcasses of you who complained against me shall fall in the wilderness…except for Calev…and Joshua…you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in. But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised. But as for you, your carcasses shall fall in the wilderness."** (Numbers 14:29-32) Ouch!

God was basically saying that they prophesied their own destruction. He said, **"***You said you will die so shall it be. I will fulfill the words you have spoken."* We truly have the power of life or death in our tongues[30]. We can prophecy life or death.

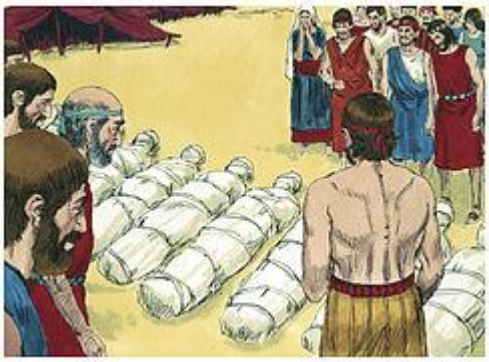
God told the prophet Ezekiel to prophecy life to the dry bones[31]. We can do the same for our own dry bones. What are we speaking? Life or death? Maybe we should listen to ourselves more closely. Are we wondering why we are struggling or suffering? Maybe the answer is right under our nose. Is it possible we have spoken destruction in a moment of upset or anger?

God hears our words. God may make promises to us but they may be conditional upon our faith-filled rather than fear-filled words to fulfill them. There exists immense creative power in the spoken and written word. God spoke the entire universe into existence! (God said....and it was created). God's promises are only possibilities; we need to add the catalyst of faith to bring them into being.

"**But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. These things are written as our examples.** "
(1 Corinthians 10:5)

We don't need to make the same mistakes: idolatry, unbelief, lust, or complaining. Whether or not we walk in 'faith-fulness' affects not only ourselves but also future generations. If we do not choose to get take hold of faith and overcome fear, then it is our children and children's children that will bear the brunt as well. "**Your children will bear the brunt of your infidelity.**"
(Numbers 14:33).

Our children can definitely make it into the 'Promised Land', even if we are unfaithful, but when we walk in fear instead of faith, it makes the journey much more difficult for future generations. Fear and unbelief may keep our children in the wilderness longer than is necessary.



The Ten Spies Who Had Spread the False Report Died (1984 illustration by Jim Padgett, courtesy of Sweet Publishing)

[30] Proverbs 18:21
[31] Ezekiel 37

The ten spies who came back with an evil report of the land died by a plague with which the Lord struck them; but Joshua and Calev survived and lived long enough to enter the Promised Land. [32] Wow! We see that faith can really be a matter of life or death!

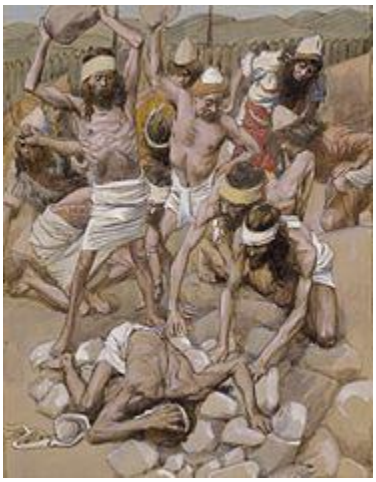
Beware Presumption

"**But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed from the camp. Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah."** (Numbers 14:44-45)

After God rendered His judgment against the Israelites, they 'presumed to go up' (without the Lord now) but were defeated. Neither the Ark of the Covenant, nor Moses departed from the camp. We must beware of presumption - of doing things in the flesh in our own strength and timing. If God's presence does not go with us, we had better just stay home! Sometimes God just says, "No!"

Israel Driven Back into the Desert (illustration by B. Barnards from the 1908 *Bible and Its Story Taught by One Thousand Picture Lessons*)

Sabbath Breaker



"Now while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day." (Numbers 15:32)

When a man was caught gathering sticks on Shabbat, they were not sure what to do with him. So they brought him to Moses and the Lord said to stone him to death.[33]

"The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp." So, as the LORD commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him with stones, and he died." (Numbers 15:35-36)

The Sabbath-Breaker Stoned (watercolor circa 1896–1902 by James Tissot)

Breaking the Sabbath a serious offence. God has given us six days to gather and work for our provision, but we are no longer slaves. We have a right and privilege and obligation to obey the command to rest on the seventh day Sabbath.

[32] Numbers 14:36-38
[33] Numbers 15:33-35

A Thread of Blue

Fringes, or *tzitzit*, on the corner of a prayer shawl, or *tallit*

"**Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels (tzitzit) on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners**." (Numbers 15:38)

The incident of the Sabbath breaker is followed by the commandment to wear tzitzit (fringes) on their garments with a thread of blue tied to the fringe. The color of blue used in this scripture is not **cahol** (dark blue) but **t'chelet** (sky blue). Today, many religious Jews wear the tzitzit (fringes); but without the required threat of blue (tchelet).

Others use a prayer shawl, called a tallilt, like the one in this picture (right). It is usually only worn during prayer times or for religious ceremonies and is also usually missing the required blue thread.

This is an example of how some religious people keep man-made traditions that transgress the commandments of God. They maintain a false belief that the thread has to be dyed with the blood of a rare mollusk found in the waters near the coast of Phoenicia. The dye was scarce so the rabbis decreed that only white threads were required – a false assumption.

Dark blue (cahol) tzitzit (photo left) are being sold on a small scale (for a high price) since it is believed that the elusive snail has been found again. This is not the right color (t'chelet). You can get the tzitzit with the light blue thread through many Messianic distributors (or just make your own).

The outward act of looking at the fringes with a thread of light blue is to remind us of heaven on a moment by moment basis. It is a physical reminder that we are to be holy, heavenly minded and keep God's commandments.

A tallit (prayer shawl)

"**And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you *may* not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God**." (Numbers 15:39-40)

Haftarat Shlach L'cha: Sending out Spies

In the haftarah for this week, it is thirty-nine years later and Joshua, Moses' successor is in leadership, preparing to take the children of Israel across the Jordan into the Promised Land. Again, spies were sent out to check out the Land; but whereas the first spying mission was characterized by fear, this one was about faith.

"**Now Joshua the son of Nun sent out two men from Acacia Grove to spy secretly, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went, and came to the house of a harlot named Rahab, and lodged there."** (Joshua 2:1)

The Harlot of Jericho and the Two Spies (watercolor circa 1896–1902 by James Tissot)

Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute. taught the Israelite spies about faith. She had such great faith in the God of Israel that she hid the spies and was therefore the only one (along with her household) saved out of all the people of Jericho. She pleaded for the lives of herself and her family and the Israelites agreed to repay her kindness with an act of kindness in return.

"**So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."** (Joshua 2:14)

Rahab let the spies down by a rope through the window, for her house *was* on the city wall. The Israelite spies instructed Rahab to tie a scarlet cord and hang it outside her window. When the Israelites would come to destroy all of Jericho, they would see this scarlet cord and would 'pass over' her household. All who sought refuge within would be spared.

We can see this as a picture of our salvation in the blood of the Messiah; just as the Israelites in Egypt who stayed under the covering of the blood-stained doorposts who were also spared from death.

It was not her righteousness (obviously since she was a harlot); but only her faith which saved her. She demonstrated faith in the God of Israel by her willingness to hide the Israelite spies and help them escape.

The Flight of the Spies (watercolor circa 1896–1902 by James Tissot)

Rahab also teaches us about importance of showing kindness and standing with Israel against her enemies. What would you do if faced with an opportunity to help an Israelite or Jewish person if it might put your life at risk?

The Connection between Rahab and Ruth

Like Ruth, a Moabite who showed kindness to Naomi, Rahab also helped Israel and was rewarded with salvation for herself and her household.

Also like Ruth, Rahab was not Israelite by birth, but her kindness (chessed) towards Israel earned her a reward. Rahab, Canaanite prostitute, is forever recorded in the Bible as a great woman of faith in chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews.

"**By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace**." (Hebrews 11:31)

Also like Ruth, Rahab became included as one of the ancestors of Yeshua (Matthew 1:5). In the Genealogy of Yeshua, written in the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, Rahab is listed as being married to Salmon of the tribe of Judah, and was the mother of Boaz (who married Ruth).

Is this why Ruth and Rahab have so many similarities? Rahab was actually Ruth's mother-in-law! Her name, "Rachav" רָחָב means 'wide' or 'broad' in Hebrew. She was a person open to a wide range of possibilities. She could see broadly. Can we? Do we have 'broad, possibility thinking?" or narrow, small-minded thinking?

The Crimson Cord

Rahab foreshadows the way that non-Jews would join the nation of Israel through the blood of the Messiah that brings salvation. The blood opens the previous boundaries and lets outsiders in. Rahab saved her family with the crimson cord – like the blood of the lamb over the doorposts of the Israelite homes that were saved from destruction.

Rahab lied in order to save the Israelite spies' lives. Some Christians question whether or not lying is ever justified; but we can also note in the Exodus story that Shifra & Puah, the two midwives, also lied to save the Israelite babies. (Exodus 1:15-21). God rewarded their faith with houses for themselves because they trusted in God more than they feared man. God also rewarded Rahab for her courage by granting her a place with the children of Israel.

Rahab teaches us about faith, loyalty, kindness and about not judging people by what they do, especially the sins of their past.

Rahab, a non-Israelite, had more faith in God than the ten spies that Moses sent out previously. She said, "**I know…that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you…"** (Joshua 2:9)

This reminds us that our enemies will melt away before us, just like the manna. They are 'bread for us', as Calev and Joshua declared. Do we have the faith to believe it?

Whatever 'giants' we are facing today, we can trust God that it will melt away in the presence of God!

"**For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more…I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a native green tree. Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more; indeed I sought him, but he could not be found**." (Psalm 37:9-10: 35,36)

Let us determine to trust in God wholeheartedly, as did Joshua and Caleb, for every battle that looms before us, for every challenge we face. I want to encourage you that no matter what you are facing today, choose to praise the Lord. Choose to declare His goodness. Our words have tremendous power, and they open the door for either God to work in our life or the enemy to work. Instead of magnifying our problems today, let us magnify our God!

Scripture says that God inhabits the praises of His people. When we praise Him, He shows up and all the forces of the enemy have to flee! Giants fall at our feet with a single stone. There's no foe that can stand against us in the presence of Almighty God! Remember that because God lives, because God is on our side, we can face whatever we need to face and emerge victorious. Halleluyah!

"You should not be satisfied with being a victim, nor with being a survivor. You should aim to be a conqueror." [34]

Shlach L'cha Study Questions

1. How many spies did Moses send out? _____ Why this number?_____
2. What were the spies supposed to do? _____
3. What were they supposed to bring back from the land? _____
4. What season was it? (Numbers 13:20) _____
5. Are the grapes ripe right now (June)? _____ When will they be ripe? _____
6. How many days were the spies gone? _____
7. What did they report back about the land? _____
8. How was 2 spies' report different from the 10 others? (v. 31) _____
9. What were their names? _____
10. How did the ten spies see themselves? (v. 33)
11. What is the truth from the Word of God about who we are?
12. Which report did the people listen to? (good or bad) _____
13. How did they react? _____
14. What did they say was God's reason for bringing them out of Egypt?

    _____
15. Was this true? _____ After all God did for them did they trust Him? _____
16. Did the people foresee a good future for themselves (a positive outcome) or did they fear the worst would happen? _____
17. What did they say would probably happen to them? _____
18. When we don't know how things will turn out we have a choice too. What does God's word say about the plans He has for us and our future – are they for good or for evil? (Jeremiah 29:11) _____
19. Instead of moving forward with courage into the good plan of God for their lives, what did the Israelites suggest they should do? (Numbers 14:4)

    _____
20. Was it God's will for them to go back into bondage to the place He rescued them from? _____ What happened to Lot's wife when she looked back to Sodom ? _____
21. What did the apostle Paul say about pressing forward (kadima) ? (Philippians 3:13-14)

    _____
22. What did the prophet Isaiah tell us about dwelling on the past? (Isaiah 43;18-19)

    _____
23. Did Joshua & Caleb also see the enemies? _____ What did they call them? _____
24. What did they mean by that? _____
25. How can we see the enemies and challenges that face us? _____
26. What was God's reaction to the Israelites' lack of faith?

    _____
27. What was that one sin so serious that it kept them out of the Promised Land? (Heb 3:19)

    _____

28. What is the one essential quality we need to please God and have victory? (I

_____

29. What are some things we can do to increase this and avoid the sin of the Israelites?

_____

30. Moses pleaded with God to forgive the people and God agreed to forgive but He still punished them. What was their punishment? _____
31. Which 2 people were the only ones who didn't receive this punishment? _____
32. When everyone around us is complaining and fearful about the future how can we have a 'different spirit' like these two men? _____
33. How does God feel about our complaining? Does He take it personally?

_____

34. What does complaining and fear bring into our lives? _____
35. Did God do to the people exactly as they had spoken? _____ How? _____
36. How can we use this to our advantage instead of to our destruction?

_____

37. What happened to the ten spies who reported evil about the Land? _____
38. What did they do to the man who gathered sticks on Shabbat? _____
39. Why do you think they were not allowed to gather sticks on Shabbat? How did this show a lack of faith in God's provision? _____
40. When we refuse to work to provide for ourselves on Shabbat what does this show?

_____

Joshua…. 39 years later sends out spies once again to spy out the Land

41. To whose house did the spies go? _____
42. Who was she? (Josh 2:1) _____
43. Joshua sent out the spies from a place called Sheeteem which is where the Israelites became involved with Moabite women (Numbers 25:1) How was this a warning to the spies? _____
44. How did this Cannanite woman of questionable reputation show her faith in the God of Israel?(2:11) _____
45. What does her name mean? (rachav) _____
46. How did what she do show that this woman was broad minded or wide in her thinking?

_____

47. She lied in order to save the lives of the Israelite spies. (2:4) Do you think this was a sin?

_____

48. Can you think of anyone else who lied in the Bible to save lives? _____
49. Did God reward them or punish them? _____
50. Is lying a sin if it saves lives? _____
51. Rahab (and her family) were the only ones saved alive out of the whole city of Jericho.

Why were they saved? (Joshua 2:12-13) _____

52. Was it because of her righteousness? _____
53. Are we saved because of our righteousness or because of our faith in the God of Israel?
54. What was the outward sign that saved Rahab and her family? (What did she hang from her window?(2:18) _____
55. What could this be a sign of? _____
56. What does Rahab teach us about judging others by their past or background?

    _____

57. What main lessons have you learned from this study that you can use for your own life and share with others to encourage them ?

    What challenges are you facing now? When faced with an unknown future and challenges that lie ahead what does this study teach us is a response that pleases God and will help us walk in victory?

    _____

    _____

About the Author:

Hannah Nesher grew up in an Orthodox Jewish home and received her education in a religious Hebrew school in Canada. During a crisis pregnancy, she came to know Jesus (Yeshua) as her Messiah and Savior. She now lives in Israel with her children and grandchildren, teaching the Jewish roots of the Christian faith.

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