



# The Exodus

## Lesson 14: Israel Refuses To Enter Canaan

(Numbers 13:1-14:45)

Way back in Genesis chapter 12, remember that God made three main promises to Abraham. First, God promised to make a great nation out of his descendants. This promise has been fulfilled in the Bible story because Israel is now a large people – and getting even larger. Second, God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham’s descendants. This is the promise God is now trying to keep (as we will study in this lesson). Third, God promised to bless the entire world through the Seed of Abraham. We will keep watching the Bible story for God to keep this promise.

After bringing the Israelites out of Egypt, God now tells Moses to send twelve men to go into the land of Canaan and come back to tell them what they saw. So, the twelve men were selected from the twelve tribes. The twelve included Joshua and Caleb.

Moses told them to go into Canaan and scout out the land to see what it was like. Moses wanted to know whether the people who lived there were strong or weak, whether they were large in number or small. He wanted to know whether the land was good or bad. He wanted to know whether the cities were only camps or whether they were strong. He wanted to know whether the land was good for growing food and whether there were trees in it or not. And, he told them to bring back some fruit from the land.

So, the twelve men went up and scouted the land. They went from the Wilderness of Zin (in the south) to Rehob near the entrance to Hamath (in the north). They went through the Negev and came to Hebron and went to the Valley of Eshcol. There, they cut down a branch with a cluster of grapes on it that was hung from a pole and carried by two men. They also took some pomegranates and figs. At the end of 40 days, they returned back to the Israelites at Kadesh.

Then, the twelve men told all the people what they had seen. They all said that the land was flowing with milk and honey and showed them the fruit they brought back. However, they said that the people living in the land were strong and the cities were large and well protected. They said they also saw descendants of giants living there, as well as the Amalekites, Hethites, Jebusites, Amorites, and Canaanites.

Caleb quieted the people and told them, “Let’s go up now and take possession of the land because we can certainly conquer it” (Numbers 13:30). Caleb and Joshua knew that God would keep His promise and give them the land. However, the other ten men said, “We can’t attack the people because they are stronger than we are!” (Numbers 13:31), and they gave a bad report to the people. They said that they were like grasshoppers to some of the people who lived there.

This news made the Israelites very sad, complain that they had left Egypt, and want to choose a new leader to take them back to Egypt. Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb were sad that the people did not trust in God. Joshua tried to tell the people that God would give them the land if they would listen to Him and that they should not be afraid of the people in the land.

Then, the glory of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the tabernacle. God knew that the Israelites did not trust in Him. This made God angry because He had done so much for them. He had shown them how powerful He was. Therefore, He wanted to destroy the people because they would not trust in Him. But, He did not.

However, because the Israelites did not trust God, they would not be given the land of Canaan yet. All the people who were 20 years old and older would die in the wilderness and they would wander in the wilderness for 40 years. The only two older than this who would be allowed to go into Canaan were Joshua and Caleb (because they did trust in God). Whenever the people heard this news and said they were wrong, they tried to go up and defeat the people of Canaan. But, they could not – because God was not with them.

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# Study Questions:

1) What were the three main promises God made to Abraham? Which one was God now trying to keep?

2) How many men were sent into Canaan? Name two of them.

3) Why were the twelve men sent into Canaan?

4) How long were these men in the land of Canaan?

5) What did the twelve men say about the land, the cities, and the people of Canaan?

6) What did Joshua and Caleb say that was different than the other men?

7) Did the Israelites decide to go into Canaan? Why or why not?

8) How did God punish the Israelites? What did He do for Joshua and Caleb?

## Memory Verse:

“If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and give it to us” (Numbers 14:8).

Draw a picture of the lesson you learned about: