



# THE STORY OF MOSES

PART 13 - DECISION

RICHARD BROWN

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

**13** The LORD said to Moses,<sup>2</sup> “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

<sup>3</sup> So at the LORD’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.<sup>4</sup> These are their names:

*(List of chosen men; skip to verse 17)*

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>17</sup> When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. <sup>18</sup> See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. <sup>19</sup> What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? <sup>20</sup> How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>21</sup> So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. <sup>22</sup> They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>23</sup> When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup> That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. <sup>25</sup> At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>26</sup> They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land.

<sup>27</sup> They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>31</sup> But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” <sup>32</sup> And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. <sup>33</sup> We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”



# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

**14** That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. <sup>2</sup> All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup> Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” <sup>4</sup> And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>5</sup> Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. <sup>6</sup> Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup> and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. <sup>8</sup> If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us.

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

<sup>10</sup> But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites.

# NUMBERS 13:1 – 14:12

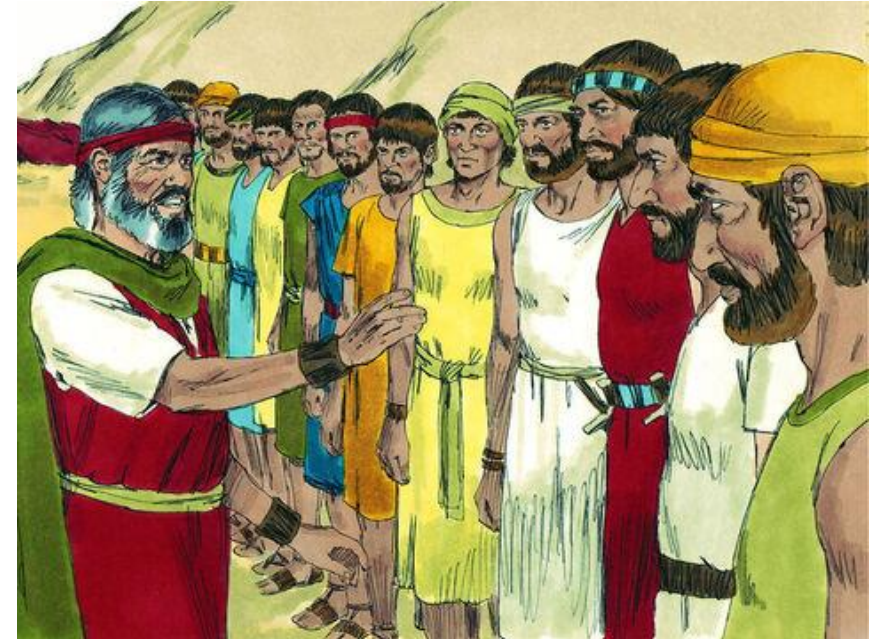
## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? <sup>12</sup> I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”

# DECISION

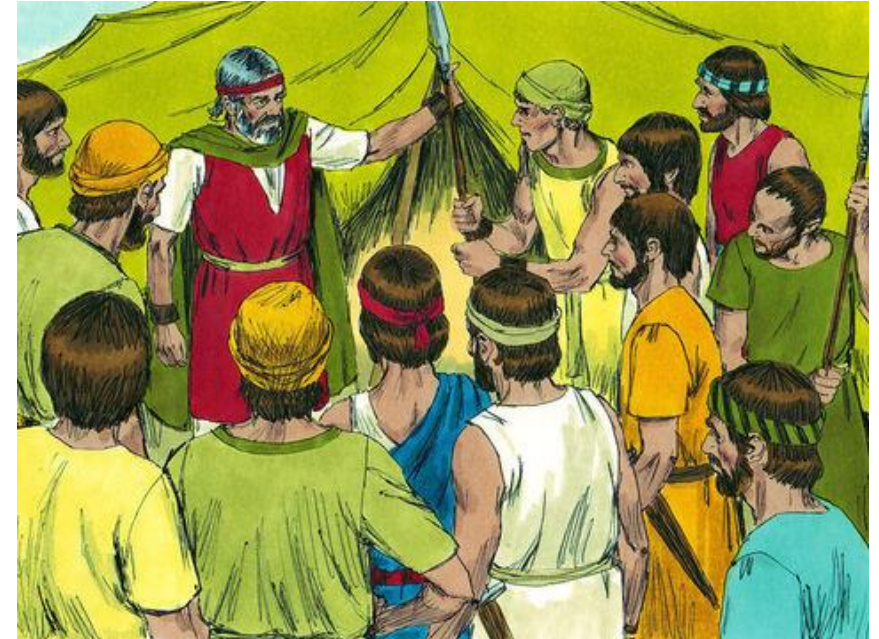
Different mindsets of the spies:

- 10 think: “*Can we?*”
- 2 believe: “*We can!*”



# MINDSET: CAN WE?

- God had said several times to Moses and the people: “*I am giving you this land*”.
- They were now right on the threshold of entering that land.
- Surely, by actually seeing what God had promised, it would strengthen their faith?
- In fact, when they saw the challenges, it produced fear and unbelief.





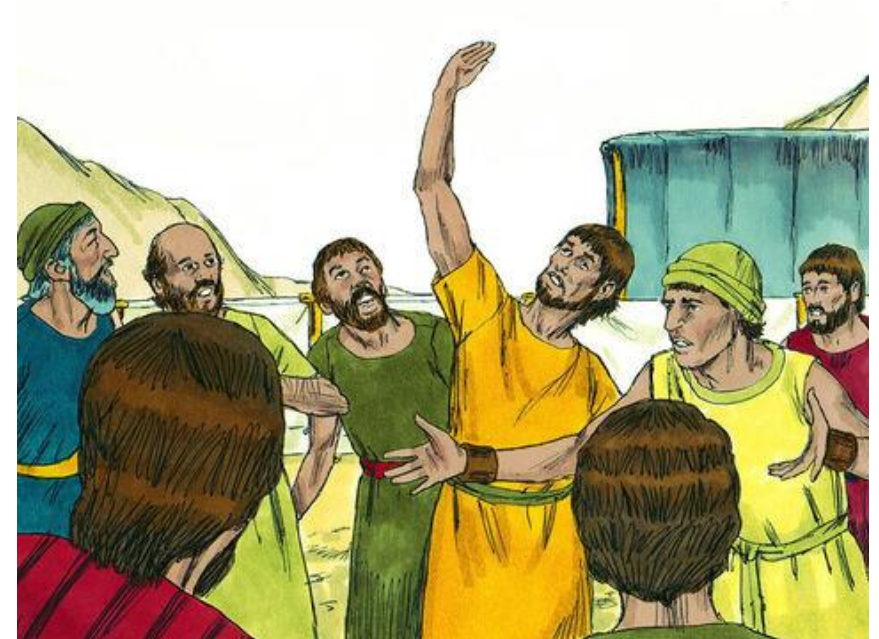
# MINDSET: CAN WE?

- They reported to Moses: *“It is just as God said, BUT...”*
- Giants, walled cities, powerful enemies... All true, but...
- The Devil really is in the details!!
- The details led to unbelief - *“We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are...”*



# MINDSET: CAN WE?

- Why couldn't they have remembered:
  - God brought them up out of Egypt
  - Protection from the destroying angel
  - Opened up a path through the Red Sea
  - Freedom from their enemy
  - Provision in the desert
  - Victory over the Amalekites
  - ...
- I need more proof!!!





# MINDSET: WE CAN!

- Joshua and Caleb take God at his word – they believe!
- Caleb tries to silence the voices of doubt and fear.
- *“We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”*



# MINDSET: WE CAN!

- God's word needs to be caught not taught.
- Hebron, where they saw the giants, became Caleb's inheritance.
- *I have hidden your word within my heart that I might not sin against you.*



# MINDSET: WE CAN!

- Only Joshua and Caleb and the generation of under 20s entered the Promised Land.
- Everyone else died in the wilderness.
- **What might have been!!!**



# APPLICATION

- At the start the children of Israel were not a nation, then they became the nation of God.
- But God wanted them to go further and be a blessing to nations around them, demonstrating what it meant to be God's people.
- For this, they needed to enter the Promised Land.

# APPLICATION

- God wants to bring us into full maturity, to be his church and a demonstration of the Kingdom of God to those around us.
- Hebrews 3:7-8 *“Today, if you hear his voice,<sup>8</sup> do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness...”*
- *“... they were not able to enter because of their unbelief”*

# APPLICATION

- Hebrews 4:11 *Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience.*
- What was their example? FEAR and UNBELIEF

# APPLICATION

What we learn in three short phrases

- Be in his presence
- Listen to his word
- Trust and Obey

# APPLICATION

- How are you going to live the remainder of your life?
  - Wandering aimless around Kadesh-barnea.
  - Be like Caleb who in his old age was still believing and took possession of the land God promised him.

