

“FAITH VS. FEAR” **Numbers Chapters 13 & 14**

Chapter 13 – “SPY vs. SPY”

(v1-2) God tells Moses to send a spy from each tribe of Israel (12 in all) to spy out the land of Canaan, “*which I am giving to the children of Israel.*” The land is theirs God is giving it to them.

(v3-16) Each tribe and each spy is listed.

(v17-20) Moses gives the orders for this spy mission into the promise land and notice his words, “*Be of good courage.*” **What is COURAGE?** It is the strength of purpose that enables one to withstand fear or difficulty. Physical courage is based on moral courage—a reliance on the presence and power of God and a commitment to His commandments (**Joshua 1:6-18; 23:6; Psalms 27:14** - *Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD! Psalms 31:24* - *Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.*). Moses orders them to bring back *some of the fruit of the land.* As Christians are courageous according to the Word of God we too will bear fruit (Matthew 13:23; John 15:1-8).

(v21-25) The spies spent 40 days spying out the land.

(v26-33) Here we see spy (Caleb - v30) vs. spies – the faithful vs. the fearful – the believer vs. the unbelievers! God had told them He would give them the land in Exodus 3:8, 17; 13:5; 33:3 & Leviticus 20:24.

- **Understanding FEAR** - A feeling of reverence, awe, and respect, or an unpleasant emotion caused by a sense of danger. Fear may be directed toward God or man, and it may be either healthy or harmful. A healthy fear is reverence or respect. The Bible teaches that children are to respect their parents (**Leviticus 19:3**), wives are to respect their husbands (**Ephesians 5:33**), and slaves are to respect their masters (**Ephesians 6:5**). The Scriptures also declare “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (**Proverbs 1:7**) as well as “the beginning of wisdom” (**Proverbs 16:16**). A harmful fear is a sense of terror or dread. Believers are instructed not to fear human beings (**Matthew 10:28; Philippians 1:28**), because they cannot ultimately harm us. Wicked men, however, are constantly fearing other people, especially the righteous (**Proverbs 28:1; Matthew 14:5; Romans 13:3-4**). Such fear causes them to act deceitfully in an attempt to hide their sins (**2 Samuel 11; Matthew 28:4-15**). On the other hand, the unbeliever has every reason to be panic-stricken at thoughts of God, for he stands condemned before Him (**Matthew 10:28; John 3:18**). And yet, this kind of fear of God does not often lead to repentance. It normally leads to a feeble attempt to hide from God (**Genesis 3:8; Revelation 6:15-17**) or worse, to a denial of God's existence and His claim on a person's life (**Psalms 14:1; Romans 1:18-28**). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary) **Overcome fear through LOVE – 1 John 4:15-19; Overcome through faith – 1 John 5:4-5; Romans 8:35-39.**

CHAPTER 14 – “FAITH VS. FEAR”

(v1-4) **Fear spreads like a fire; we must fireproof our faith with the Word of God! (Romans 10:17** - *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*)

(v5) All Christian leaders must learn a great lesson at this juncture, that is, when you are in the midst of the unfaithful fire – **PRAY!** (Like Moses and Aaron, let God take over.)

(v6-9) **Joshua and Caleb are faithful men of God!** They believe God, they believe in the power of God, they believe in the protection of God, they believe in the provision of God, they believe that their God is VICTORIOUS!

(v10-19) The people rejected God, they would not believe God, they would not follow the Word of God; and God was going to judge them for their sins, but Moses interceded according to the promises of God (Ex. 34:6-7). This is a great lesson on prayer for all believers, that is, to pray according to the God's precious promises. (We must also understand that Moses is a type of Christ to come, an intercessor.)

(v20-38) The rebellious people put God to the test “ten times” and these people shall not see the land, except for Caleb and Joshua and all the children who are currently under 20 years of age.

(v38-45) Here is a lesson in reaping what you sow, sadly these people will not stop rebelling against God, and truly they are a stiff-necked people. Our lesson is to believe and obey, walk by faith not fear; for God is always faithful to fulfill all His precious promises!