

Numbers 13:1-33 **Spies sent to spy out the land from the border of the Promised Land**

¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel; from each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a leader among them." ³ So Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the children of Israel.

⁴ Now these were their names: from the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur; ⁵ from the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori; ⁶ from the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh; ⁷ from the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph; ⁸ from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun; ⁹ from the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu; ¹⁰ from the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi; ¹¹ from the tribe of Joseph, that is, from the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi; ¹² from the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli; ¹³ from the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael; ¹⁴ from the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi; ¹⁵ from the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi. ¹⁶ These are the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun, Joshua.

¹⁷ Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said to them, "Go up this way into the South, and go up to the mountains, ¹⁸ and see what the land is like: whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many; ¹⁹ whether the land they dwell in is good or bad; whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds; ²⁰ whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not. Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

²¹ So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin as far as Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath. ²² And they went up through the South and came to Hebron; Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) ²³ Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs. ²⁴ The place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there. ²⁵ And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.

²⁶ Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

²⁸ Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan."

³⁰ 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." ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." ³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad 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. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The journey from Mount Sinai (Horeb) to the border of the Promised Land took 11 days. [\[Deuteronomy 1:2\]](#)
- ✧ Spies sent to spy out the Promised Land from the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh Barnea [\[Numbers 10:12, 12:16, 13:3, 13:26, 32:8, Deuteronomy 1:1-8, 19-25, 9:23, Joshua 14:6-7\]](#)
- ✧ Instructions were to see what the land is like:
 - ◇ Whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many;
 - ◇ Whether the land they dwell in is good or bad;
 - ◇ Whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or strongholds;
 - ◇ Whether the land is rich or poor; and whether there are forests there or not.
 - ◇ Be of good courage. And bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.

	Tribe	Spy
1	Reuben	Shammua son of Zaccur
2	Simeon	Shaphat son of Hori
3	Judah	Caleb son of Jephunneh
4	Issachar	Igal son of Joseph
5	Ephraim	Hoshea (Joshua) son of Nun
6	Benjamin	Palti son of Raphu
7	Zebulun	Gaddiel son of Sodi
8	Manasseh	Gaddi son of Susi
9	Dan	Ammiel son of Gemalli
10	Asher	Sethur son of Michael
11	Naphtali	Nahbi son of Vophsi
12	Gad	Geuel son of Machi

- ✧ Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs.
 - ◇ The place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there.
 - ◇ And they returned from spying out the land after forty days.
- ✧ After 40 days they brought back some of the fruit to the camp at Kadesh in the Wilderness of Paran.
- ✧ The land is good and truly flows with milk and honey, this is its fruit.
- ✧ The people of the land are strong, cities fortified and large, descendants of Anak are there, the Amalekites in the South, the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites dwell in the mountains, the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.
- ✧ Caleb said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."
- ✧ The others said, "We are not able to go against the people for they are stronger than we. The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and the people we saw are men of great stature, giants descendants of Anak, and we are like grasshoppers in their sight and in our own sight.