

THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY

Numbers 13:1-33; 14:1-45.

LESSON 38 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: **"I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).**

BIBLE TEXTS

Numbers 13:1-33

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
2 Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.

3 And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.

4 And these were their names: of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur.

5 Of the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori.

6 Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

7 Of the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph.

8 Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun.

9 Of the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu.

10 Of the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi.

11 Of the tribe of Joseph, namely, of the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi.

12 Of the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli.

13 Of the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael.

14 Of the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi.

15 Of the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi.

16 These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua.

17 And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:

18 And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;

19 And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds;

20 And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes.

21 So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath.

22 And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were.

(Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

23 And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs.

24 The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence.

25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.

27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled,

and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

NOTES

Nearing the Homeland

When the people led by Moses were nearing the land to which they were going, the Lord told Moses to send 12 men to go to see what the land was like; to see whether the people were strong or weak, and whether they lived in tents or in strong buildings. By seeing the land and the people, they would know how to take the land; for God had told them that He was going to give it to them.

The Bad Report

After 40 days they came back and told Moses and the people that the land was very good, there was much food there; and they brought back a bunch of grapes that took two men to carry. They

said that the people were big and strong, and the spies looked like grasshoppers beside them. They said, too, that the cities had very high walls around them.

When the people heard that report, they were afraid. They said they could not take that land and those people, and blamed Moses for bringing them up to that place where they would have to go in and fight.

The Good Report

But there were two men who believed God, trusted in His power and were willing to go in and take the land. Caleb and Joshua knew that if God had told them He would give them that land, He would help them to get it. They knew that there was nothing impossible with God.

The Punishment

Because the people did not believe God's Word and trust Him to do what He had said He would do, God was not pleased with them; and He punished them for their disobedience. Instead of going into that good land they had to turn back into the wilderness and suffer hardships for forty years. Many of the people who had come out of Egypt never did get into that good land. Only the children twenty years old or under twenty were permitted to go into the land many years later.

God punished the spies who brought back an evil report – the Lord sent a sickness on them, and they died. But Caleb and Joshua were not punished.

It is a terrible thing to disobey God, and not to trust Him. When God tells us to do a thing, He will always help us to do it, no matter how hard it may seem to be.

QUESTIONS

1. What kinds of fruit did the spies bring back? Number 13:23.
2. What did Caleb and Joshua say about the land? Numbers 13:30; 14:7-9.
3. What did the other spies say? Numbers 13:31-33.
4. What happened to those who brought back an evil report? Numbers 14:36, 37.
5. Were Caleb and Joshua also punished? Numbers 14:38.

LESSON RESOURCES

MUSIC

We Will Take The Land

WATCH AND PRAY 25



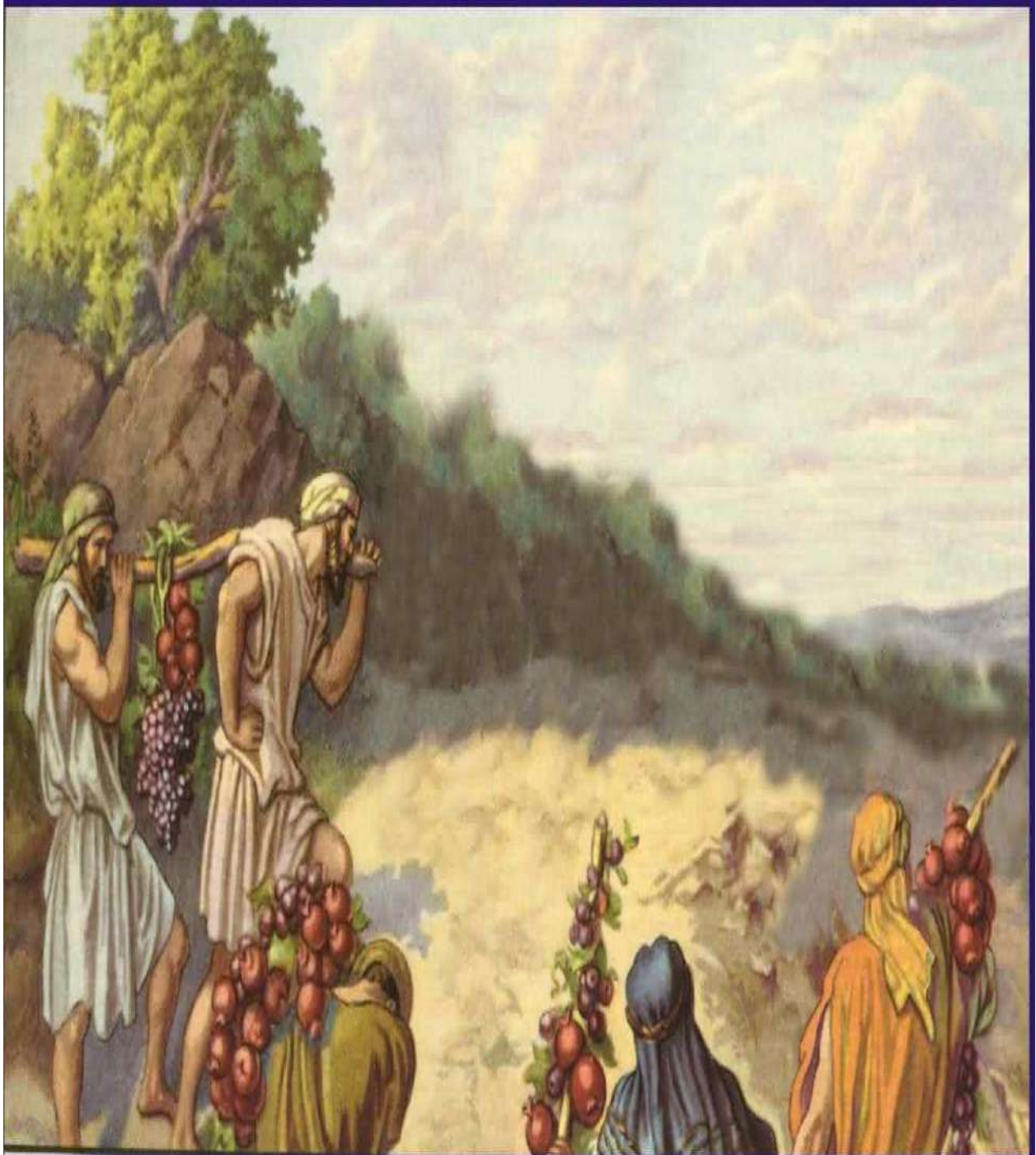
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SONG

We Will Take The Land

We are pressing t'ward the land of Canaan
Just beyond the brink of Jordan's tide;
We have left the worthless fare of Egypt
With its bondage, sin and pride,
But the land we seek must be by conquest,
Battles must be fought and victories won,
Giants must be slain and armies overthrown,
'Till before us stands not one'.
We will take the land, together we will stand;
"Courage, faith and work:" our song:
For the land before us reaches to the skies;
God commands us now, "Be strong!"

PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2

