

“The Twelve Spies- Confronting your Giants”

Scripture: Numbers 13 & 14



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Numbers chapters 13 and 14 tell a sobering story of God’s desire to bring His people into the Promised Land. He instructed Moses to send 12 spies to view the land before the rest of the Israelites entered it. After 40 days, the spies returned and brought a mixed report:

We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large...There we saw the giants...and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight (Numbers 13:27-28, 33).

The first 10 spies reported that God had indeed given them a wonderful land of “*milk and honey*” and abundant crops. But, they saw no way the Israelites could actually possess such a land, for it was inhabited by strong enemies and impregnable fortresses.

Does this sound a lot like your life today? You’ve heard about a fantastic place of victory and abundance that God has prepared for you, but the obstacles seem too great...the enemies too intimidating...the cost too high.

Caleb and Joshua gave the people a much different report, which unfortunately was disregarded by the cowardly and unbelieving spies:

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.”

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.” 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” (Numbers 13:30-32).

God’s people were at the very brink of the Promised Land. They were poised to enter into their destiny. Yet they allowed fear and disobedience to keep them in the wilderness for 40 more years!

What Went Wrong?

How could the 10 spies get things so wrong? They gave a "*bad report*" because the obstacles to their destiny seemed like "*giants*." Is that how your problems look today – enormous and overwhelming?

The story of the 10 spies who brought back a fearful and negative report provides a sobering warning for us today. Instead of cowering in fear and intimidation, we must aggressively take the battle to the enemy.

You see, whether in the physical or the spiritual realm, passivity and accommodation never bring victory in warfare. Jesus repeatedly spoke of the need to be on the offensive against the enemy: "*From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force*" (Matthew 11:12).

Remember: You will never "take ground" from the enemy or reach your destiny without a fight!

Checking Your Vision

The 10 cowardly spies had a "vision" problem. They saw the obstacles (the so-called "giants") as BIG and God as SMALL. Do you see how foolish that perspective is? It will always rob us of obeying God and pursuing the dreams He has given us.

Whenever the Lord gives us a great "territory" to take, there will always appear to be insurmountable obstacles in the way. Unless we clearly see God as BIG and the problems, in comparison, as SMALL, we will inevitably draw back and remain in the wilderness.

- *Unless we see God correctly...we won't have faith.*
- *Unless we have faith...we won't be able to obey.*
- *Without faith and obedience...we won't be able to do battle and enter into the destiny God has for us* (Hebrews chapters 3 and 4).

Notice that when the Israelites saw God incorrectly, they saw themselves incorrectly as well. The 10 fainthearted spies saw themselves and their countrymen as mere "*grasshoppers*" in comparison to the enemy "*giants*" in the Promised Land. Just two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, saw God instead.

What do you see when you look around you today? Lots of believers are still locked in the "Grasshopper Syndrome," failing to see who they are in Christ. Sure, the problems we face may be bigger than us. But they definitely aren't bigger than our Lord!

What's Holding You Back?

Friend, is there a "giant" that has been keeping you out of your Promised Land God's place of blessing and destiny for your life? As you consider your life's purpose and mission, is there something that is holding you back from truly entering in? Financial concerns...struggles in your family...a problem with your health or emotions...or fear of failure?

Whatever your giant may be, you can overcome it in the same way David defeated Goliath. The young shepherd boy faced a giant who was nearly 10 feet tall probably almost twice his size. Yet David's eyes weren't on the size of his enemy, but rather on the size of his God!

No wonder David could have such audacious faith. His confidence was in the strength of the Lord, not in his own strength. When taunted by his massive enemy, he fearlessly replied: "*The battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands*" (1 Samuel 17:45-47).

Be bold, my friend. No matter what kind of giant you may be facing, victory can be yours in Jesus' name!



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

TWELVE SPIES

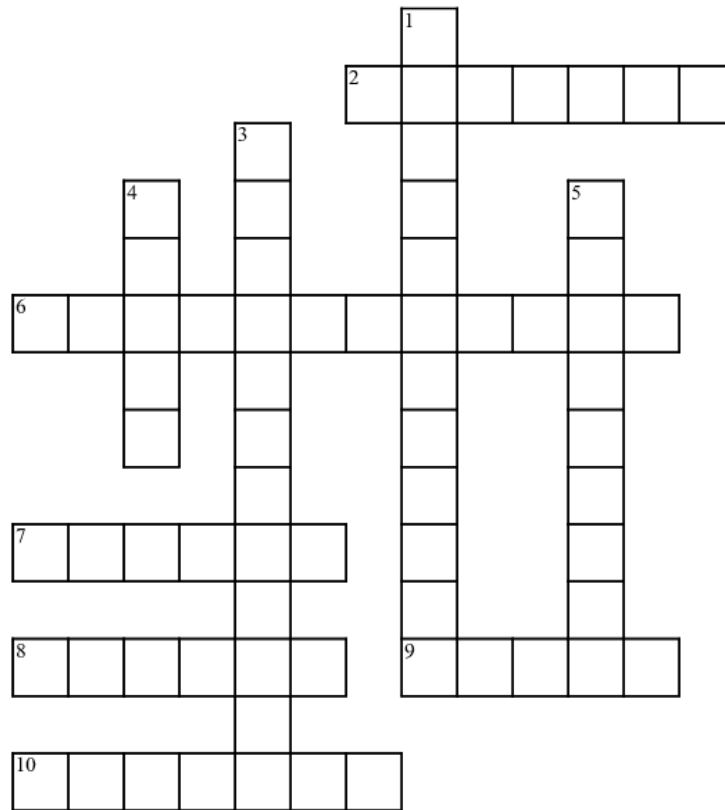
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SPIES
JOSHUA
JORDAN RIVER
JUDAH
EPHRAIM
ANAK

CALEB
POMEGRANATES
GIANTS
YAHWEH
CANAAN
ISRAELITES

GRAPES
CITIES
NEGEV
MOSES
AARON
TRIBES OF ISRAEL

Caleb and Joshua



Across

2. God is worthy to be _____
6. Cow and a hive
7. The Promise Land (Hint: it's not Iowa)
8. Name that means Jehovah saves
9. What are sneaky agents
10. 63rd book from the end of the Bible

Down

1. Grass jumpers
3. Opposite of ungreat stature
4. Name that means faithful
5. act in trust and _____ to God's instruction even in the midst of difficulty.