

Canoeing The Mountains

Numbers 13-14

THE DAY OF DISCOVERY

📖 Exodus 3:7-8 (NIV84) “The LORD said, ‘I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.’⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.”

1. God **sees** our **misery**. (Exodus 3:7a)
2. God **hears** our **tears**. (Exodus 3:7b)
3. God **cares** about our **suffering**. (Exodus 3:7c)
4. God **rescues** us from our **enemies**. (Exodus 3:8)
5. God **sends** us on a **mission**. (Numbers 13:2)

📖 Numbers 13:1–3 (NIV84) “The LORD said to Moses,² “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.”³ So at the Lord’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.”

📖 Genesis 12:3 (NIV84) “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

THE DEFEAT OF FEAR

📖 Numbers 13:25–30 (NIV84) “At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.²⁶ 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.²⁷ 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.²⁸ But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.²⁹ 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.”³⁰ 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 13:31-33 (NIV84) “But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”³² 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.³³ 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.”

THE DECAY OF DISAPPOINTMENT

📖 Numbers 14:1–4 (NIV84) “That night all the people of the community raised their voices and wept aloud.² 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 desert!³ 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?”⁴ And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

📖 Numbers 14:5-9 (NIV84) “Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there.⁶ Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes⁷ and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good.⁸ 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.⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

THE DELAY OF PROMISES

📖 Numbers 14:26–30 (NIV84) “The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: ²⁷ “How long will this wicked community grumble against me? I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. ²⁸ So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: ²⁹ In this desert your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. ³⁰ Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.”

📖 Joshua 1:1-5 (NIV84) “After the death of Moses, the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua, son of Nun, Moses’ aide: ² “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³ I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴ Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west. ⁵ No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.’

📖 Joshua 14:6–13 (NIV84) “Now the men of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. ⁷ I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, ⁸ but my brothers who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt with fear. I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly. ⁹ So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.’ ¹⁰ “Now then, just as the LORD promised, He has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am

today, eighty-five years old! ¹¹ I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I’m just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. ¹² Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, but, the LORD helping me, I will drive them out just as He said.” ¹³ Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance.”

Digging Deeper: What do the stories of Lewis & Clark and Joshua & Caleb teach us about completing our tasks? How do the stories illustrate the importance of being adaptable and flexible? In what ways do Joshua & Caleb's faithfulness demonstrate standing for God? How can our actions today have an impact beyond our lifetime? Why is it essential to continue to move forward even while facing difficulties?