



Numbers 13:26-33 New International Version

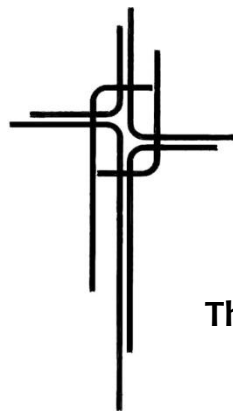
Numbers 13:26-33

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. 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. But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 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.”

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.”

But the men who had gone up with him said, “*We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.*” 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.** 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.”

You are not defined by your past. You are prepared by your past.



Where is God? A Study on the Life of Moses

THEIR HISTORY IS OUR FUTURE

Those who fear the future...

will glorify the past (*bondage*)

will devalue themselves (*slaves*)

will ignore hope (*savior*)

Life is made up of **CHALLENGES** that grow us,
CHANGES that move us, and **CHOICES** that define us.

LEARN from the Past

Don’t be **IGNORANT** (*discipleship, Matt. 11:29*)

LIVE in the Present

God is more interested in your **INTEGRITY** than in your image

LEAD into the Future

The **WORD** John 8:31 [see Psalm 119:105]

The **HOLY SPIRIT** John 16:13

The **CHURCH** Ephesians 4:12-13

LIVING WORD



Taking Risks

Those who challenge society's standards risk disapproval or even ostracism. We tend to adapt all too easily to a safe and comfortable lifestyle. In our walk with Christ we often follow the path of least resistance, avoiding challenges which intimidate us. On the threshold of the Promised Land the children of Israel are faced with a critical choice. They can opt for the path of least resistance or dare to trust their God.

What aspect of following Christ frightens or challenges you the most? God knows your fears and wants to comfort you.

Read Numbers 13:1-14:12

- What kind of information does Moses ask the Israelite leaders to gather (13:18-20)?
- What negative and positive aspects of the land do the spies describe in their report to the Israelite community (13:27-29)?
- How does Caleb's perception of the situation (13:30) contrast with that of the other spies (13:31-33)?
- How do the Israelites respond to the conflicting assessments of the land the spies have explored (14:1-4)?
- What do Caleb and Joshua remind the people about their identity (14:8-9)?

Applying the Word

- In your Christian experience, have you ever reached a point when you wanted to "go back to Egypt"? Explain.
- Where might God be calling you to step out in faith in a risky situation?

Responding in Prayer

Ask God to make you a person who is ready to take risks for his sake.

"No matter how dark things seem to be or actually are, raise your sights and see the possibilities – always see them, for they're always there."

A mind focused on doubt and fear cannot focus on little else

James 2:24

You see that a person is considered righteous by **what they do** and not by faith alone.

All the Israelites could see was their limitations.

the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. John 16:13

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. John 8:31 [see Psalm 119:105]

Ephesians 4:12-13 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to **humble** and **test** you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.

Deuteronomy 8:2

Remember every road that GOD led you on for those forty years in the wilderness, pushing you to your limits, testing you so that he would know what you were made of, whether you would keep his commandments or not. He put you through hard times. He made you go hungry. Then he fed you with manna, something neither you nor your parents knew anything about, so you would learn that men and women don't live by bread only; we live by every word that comes from GOD's mouth. Your clothes didn't wear out and your feet didn't blister those forty years. You learned deep in your heart that GOD disciplines you in the same ways a father disciplines his child. **Deuteronomy 8:2 MSG**

[1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)

"For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

"Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did-- and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did-- and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did-- and were killed by the destroying angel.

"These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it (NIV).

1 Corinthians 10:1-13 The Message (MSG)

10¹⁻⁵ Remember our history, friends, and be warned. All our ancestors were led by the providential Cloud and taken miraculously through the Sea. They went through the waters, in a baptism like ours, as Moses led them from enslaving death to salvation life. They all ate and drank identical food and drink, meals provided daily by God. They drank from the Rock, God's fountain for them that stayed with them wherever they were. And the Rock was Christ. But just experiencing God's wonder and grace didn't seem to mean much—most of them were defeated by temptation during the hard times in the desert, and God was not pleased.

⁶⁻¹⁰ The same thing could happen to us. We must be on guard so that we never get caught up in wanting our own way as they did. And we must not turn our religion into a circus as they did—"First the people partied, then they threw a dance." We must not be sexually promiscuous—they paid for that, remember, with 23,000 deaths in one day! We must never try to get Christ to serve us instead of us serving him; they tried it, and God launched an epidemic of poisonous snakes. We must be careful not to stir up discontent; discontent destroyed them.

¹¹⁻¹² These are all warning markers—DANGER!—in our history books, written down so that we don't repeat their mistakes. Our positions in the story are parallel—they at the beginning, we at the end—and we are just as capable of messing it up as they were. Don't be so naive and self-confident. You're not exempt. You could fall flat on your face as easily as anyone else. Forget about self-confidence; it's useless. Cultivate God-confidence.

¹³ No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will

never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

Exodus

14 That night all the members 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 wilderness! 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.”

Romans 13:11

understanding the **present time**: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.