

Num. 10:11-12: And it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from off the tabernacle of the testimony. And the children of Israel took their journeys out of the wilderness of Sinai; and the cloud rested in the wilderness of Paran.

We learn from Deuteronomy 1 that the men sent out to search The Promised Land were different from those who were selected as leaders in the war as described in chapter one-heads of each tribe. These were selected to be rulers that is “Nasi” an exalted one, chief captain so it was a position of great privilege. It would seem that the men sent to search the land were also eminent –rulers-so well respected by Moses and the people. Maybe it was to give other experienced and worthy men an opportunity to show their worth- and they failed-they upset the people in emphasizing how strong the inhabitants were. Perhaps men of war would have taken a better approach. But it had the effect of testing the people. Caleb stood out as one of moral courage and trust in God.

Below is given the meaning of all the names as a matter of interest.

Num 13:1-2: And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 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.

Why did The Lord give this commandment? In view of their failure it seems to see what was in their hearts and if after all that they had been shown they believed and trusted in Him. God knows the end from the beginning so He knew the kind of answer they would bring and it was to test the people, to see after all their experiences they trusted in God-their Father in Heaven.

Num 13:3-4: *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. And these were their names* and with them I have given possible meanings of their names

Of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua –renowned the son of Zaccur.
mindful

Of the tribe of Simeon, -hearing; Shaphata judge, the son of Hori-cave dweller

Of the tribe of Judah, Praise Caleb-a dog or wholehearted the son of Jephunneh.-a way prepared

Of the tribe of Issachar, reward; Igal avenge (the son of Joseph.)-increase

Of the tribe of Ephraim double fruit, Oshea salvation; the son of Nun perpetuity .

Of the tribe of Benjamin son of the right hand, Palti –deliverer the son of Raphu -Cured.

Of the tribe of Zebulun, dwelling, Gaddiel God's company the son of Sodi. God in whom I confide

Of the tribe of Joseph, Increaser, namely, of the tribe of Manasseh, forgetting, Gaddi the son of Susi.-my horse-there will be

Of the tribe of Dan, -judge Ammiel people of God the son of Gemalli.-camel driver

Of the tribe of Asher-happy, Sethur-hidden the son of Michael. –like God

Of the tribe of Naphtali, wrestling Nahbi hide the son of Vophsi.-add

Of the tribe of Gad, -invade overcome, Geuel-majesty of God the son of Machi waxen poor.

Num 13:16 *These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua- Jehovah saved*

New leaders were selected but we note that in chapter eleven that the people complained and it may have been for an initial purging. (In the recent history of The Truth there has been division after division. This has been to keep the truth alive in its purity and the hand of God has been behind it

Jude also speaks of this purging Jude 1:5 *I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.*

Num 11:1-3: *And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched. And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.*

So as it was the outermost part of the camp, possibly the Egyptians that had come with Israel, but this may not have been why new leaders were appointed, that has not been directly stated.

Then Miriam and Aaron complained that Moses had married an Ethiopian woman and that angered The Lord. Miriam was made leprous but healed her when Moses pleaded for her (such also is the valuable work of our High Priest in heaven on the right side of God making intercession even though sometimes we may not realise the need.

Then the spies were sent to search out the land and they showed the fruit of the land –a bunch of grapes that required two men to carry it,

it was so big. Num 13:26 -29 *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. 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. 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. 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.*

This report made the people's hearts sink showing again how shallow they were in their faith and how little they trusted in God and His promises. But those who brought the evil report-selected men of the congregation died-Num14.23.

Caleb, one of those who had searched the land tried to reassure the people and said , "Let us go up at once," but to no effect because of their lack of faith. There seems to have been something wrong in the hearts of these people because they had a tendency to complain. This shows lack of faith as the Psalmist says -Psa 27:14 *Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD* how important not to be hasty in anything.

There was no excuse-They had indeed tasted the goodness of The Lord in being brought from slavery into which they had all (except Moses) been born as had been their forefathers in Egypt Their Firstborn were saved provided they showed the blood of the Lamb on their lintels. They passed through the Red Sea when the Egyptian armies had perished. They were brought close to God and His great power at Sinai as we are shown in Hebrews 12:18- 21 *For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, And the sound of*

a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)

So with all these things that had gone before they had no excuse for their lack of faith when they left Sanai for the journey to the Promise Land. And they pitched in the wilderness of Paran

Num 13:17 -20 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: And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many; 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; 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 first ripe grapes.

Report of the Spies

Num 13:25 -30: And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

It looks as if the people were blaming Moses-people always look for an excuse for their own failures and often others to blame

Num 13:31-33: 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. 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. 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.

Also there is a recital of the events by Moses in Deuteronomy 1 which should be read as it is very relevant, showing Moses view of those events, which is of course the same view of Yahweh and how they sought to remedy their failure to take on the enemies but were told not to because God would not be with them after their display of disbelief

Deut 4vs32-40 are very helpful concerning His dealings with Israel and very encouraging to us in providing real proof of God's hand with God's controlling hand with Israel.

Looking from our detached standpoint we can readily see that they were people of very short memories.

Why was that? Somehow they had not let all the wonders and power of God stay with them. (we are told not to be overcome with the cares of this world and the Day of The Lord come upon us unawares)

What could they be hoping for? They readily forgot all the Promises,

As we have seen they readily use names that show an association with God but deny the power. But God had shown that they could defeat the resident nations.

Deuteronomy 7:1-4: When the LORD thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou; And when the LORD thy God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor shew mercy unto them: Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly- without delay

The called of God must be separate and not joined in any way
2Corinthians 6:14: Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

Brotherly love to all in Christ

Brother Ken