

=THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL=

Lesson 8

The Spies at Kadesh-barnea

AIM: to impart to my class members a determination to defeat the giants standing between them and something God would have them to do or be.

POINT OF CONTACT: Bring a sack of grapes to class and say, “This paper bag contains something which pertains to our lesson today. What do you think is in the bag?”

I. THE FIRST MISTAKE. See Numbers 13:1-3. Compare these verses with Deuteronomy 1:10-23. It appears that this is what happened:

1. God commanded the Israelites to take the land.
2. The Israelites refused to go on faith and insisted on sending spies.
3. God gave His consent to their sending the spies, although it was not His perfect will. The Jews were no longer in the perfect will of God, but rather in His permissive will.

II. THE PROMISED LAND.

1. Here was land wonderful beyond description, Numbers 13:23, 27. Among other things there was an abundance of God’s choicest foods.
2. This was the land that was promised to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-7; 17:8. It was also promised to Isaac in Genesis 26:3-5, also to Jacob in Genesis 28:1-4, and to the Israelites in Exodus 3:7, 8.
3. The Israelites were now on the threshold of the greatest day in their national history. After four hundred years in Egypt, they now have an open door into the Promised Land.

III. THE SPIES.

1. Caleb speaking also for Joshua said, “What are we waiting for? Let’s go take it now.” Read Numbers 13:30.
2. The ten faithless spies thought differently. Their objections are listed in Numbers 13:28-33.
3. All of us have giants in our lives that we should defeat. May God help us to be like Caleb who, at the age of eighty, defeated these same giants.

IV. THE SINS OF THE CONGREGATION.

1. They listened to the ten spies instead of to Caleb and Joshua. May God help us to heed neither the advice nor example of faithless worldlings like these ten spies.
2. We find them crying again, Numbers 14:1.
3. They murmured against Moses and Aaron, Numbers 14:2a.
4. They made insincere statements about death, Numbers 14:2b.
5. They turned against the man of God, Numbers 14:4.
6. They tried to stone Moses, Aaron, Joshua, and Caleb, Numbers 14:10.

V. THE LORD.

1. The Lord protected His men, Numbers 14:10.
2. We find God angry at sin, as He always is, Numbers 14:11, 12.
3. We find once again that it pays to serve God, Numbers 14:22-24.
4. The ten wicked spies were executed by the Lord, Numbers 14:36, 37.

VI. TOO LATE! In Numbers 14:40-45 we find the tragic account of the Israelites trying to enter the Promised Land after God had closed the door.

CONCLUSION: It takes as much effort to live for God today as it did in 1490 B.C. Let’s determine to fight whatever giants are necessary in order to be what God wants us to be.