

Message Eleven

Partners of Christ Fighting for God's Interest

RK *Hymns*: 892, 881

Scripture Reading: Num. 13:17-14:38; Deut. 1:34-38; Josh. 14:6-14; Heb. 3:14

- Num 13:17 And when Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, he said to them, Go up this way into the Negev, and go up into the hill country;
- Num 13:18 And see what the land is like; and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many;
- Num 13:19 And whether the land in which they dwell is good or bad; and whether the cities that they live in are like camps or with fortifications;
- Num 13:20 And whether the land is fat or lean; whether there are trees in it or not. Therefore strengthen yourselves and bring some of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the first ripe grapes.
- Num 13:21 So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near the entrance of Hamath.
- Num 13:22 And when they had gone up through the Negev, they came to Hebron; and Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)
- Num 13:23 Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and from there they cut down a branch with a single cluster of grapes; and they carried it on a pole between two of them. They also cut off some of the pomegranates and some of the figs.
- Num 13:24 That place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the children of Israel cut down from there.
- Num 13:25 And they returned from spying out the land at the end of forty days.
- Num 13:26 And they proceeded to come to Moses and to Aaron and to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, to the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and they brought back word to them and to the whole assembly, and showed them the fruit of the land.
- Num 13:27 And they told him and said, We came to the land into which you sent us; and it indeed flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.
- Num 13:28 However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and we also saw the descendants of Anak there.
- Num 13:29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negev, and the Hittites and the Jebusites and the Amorites dwell in the hill country, and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the Jordan.
- Num 13:30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.
- Num 13:31 But the men who went up with him said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.
- Num 13:32 And they brought to the children of Israel an evil report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great size.
- Num 13:33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.
- Num 14:1 Then the whole assembly lifted up their voice and cried, and the people wept that night.
- Num 14:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron; and the whole assembly said to them, If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!
- Num 14:3 And why does Jehovah bring us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder. Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?
- Num 14:4 And they said one to another, Let us appoint a captain, and let us return to Egypt.
- Num 14:5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the whole congregation of the assembly of the children of Israel.
- Num 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who spied out the land, tore their clothes.
- Num 14:7 And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land.
- Num 14:8 If Jehovah is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us; a land which flows with milk and honey.
- Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.

Num 14:10 But the whole assembly said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of Jehovah appeared in the Tent of Meeting to all the children of Israel.

Num 14:11 And Jehovah said to Moses, How long will this people despise Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?

Num 14:12 I will strike them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.

Num 14:13 But Moses said to Jehovah, Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for by Your might You brought this people up from their midst,

Num 14:14 And they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, Jehovah, are in the midst of this people; for You, O Jehovah, are seen in plain sight, and Your cloud stands over them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night.

Num 14:15 Now if You put this people to death as one man, then the nations that have heard the report about You will speak, saying,

Num 14:16 Because Jehovah was not able to bring this people into the land which He swore to give them, He has therefore slaughtered them in the wilderness.

Num 14:17 And now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying,

Num 14:18 Jehovah is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generations.

Num 14:19 Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You have forgiven this people from Egypt even until now.

Num 14:20 Then Jehovah said, I have pardoned them according to your word;

Num 14:21 But as surely as I live, and as all the earth will be filled with the glory of Jehovah,

Num 14:22 None of those men who have seen My glory and My signs, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have tried Me these ten times and have not listened to My voice,

Num 14:23 Shall see the land which I swore to give to their fathers, nor shall any of those who despised Me see it.

Num 14:24 Only My servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit and has fully followed Me, will I bring into the land which he entered; and his descendants shall take possession of it.

Num 14:25 Now since the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valleys, turn tomorrow, and set out into the wilderness by the way that leads to the Red Sea.

Num 14:26 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,

Num 14:27 How long shall I bear with this evil assembly, which murmurs against Me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they are making against Me.

Num 14:28 Say to them, As I live, declares Jehovah, just as you have spoken in My ears, so will I do to you.

Num 14:29 Your corpses shall fall in this wilderness, and none of you who were numbered, according to the number you counted from twenty years old and upward, who have murmured against Me,

Num 14:30 Shall come into the land, in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

Num 14:31 But your little ones, whom you said would become plunder, I will bring in, and they will know the land which you have rejected.

Num 14:32 But as for you, your corpses shall fall in this wilderness.

Num 14:33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and they shall suffer for your unfaithfulness until your corpses have been consumed in the wilderness.

Num 14:34 According to the number of the days which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for every day, you shall bear your iniquities, forty years; and you shall know My displeasure.

Num 14:35 I, Jehovah, have spoken; surely I will do this to all this evil assembly who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

Num 14:36 And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made the whole assembly to murmur against him by bringing up an evil report against the land,

Num 14:37 That is, those men who brought up an evil report of the land, died by the plague before Jehovah.

Num 14:38 Only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive out of those men who went to spy out the land.

Deut 1:34 And Jehovah heard the voice of your words, and He became furious and swore, saying,

Deut 1:35 Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall by any means see the good land which I have sworn to give to your fathers,

Deut 1:36 Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it. And to him I will give the land on which he has trodden, and to his children, because he has fully followed Jehovah.

Deut 1:37 With me also Jehovah was angry on your account, saying, You also shall not enter there;

- Deut 1:38 Joshua the son of Nun, who attends to you, he shall enter there. Strengthen him, for it is he who will cause Israel to inherit it.
- Josh 14:6 Then the children of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal; and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, You know the word that Jehovah spoke to Moses the man of God concerning me and concerning you in Kadesh-barnea.
- Josh 14:7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of Jehovah sent me out from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I returned such a word to him as was genuinely upon my heart.
- Josh 14:8 However my brothers who went up with me made the people's heart melt, but I fully followed Jehovah my God.
- Josh 14:9 And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, for you have fully followed Jehovah my God.
- Josh 14:10 And now, look, Jehovah has kept me alive, as He said, for these forty-five years, since the time Jehovah spoke this word to Moses while Israel walked through the wilderness. And now, look, today I am eighty-five years old.
- Josh 14:11 Today I am still as strong as I was on the day Moses sent me out; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for battle and for going out and coming in.
- Josh 14:12 Now therefore give me this hill country, of which Jehovah spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that the Anakim were there with great fortified cities. It may be that Jehovah will be with me, and I will dispossess them, as Jehovah said.
- Josh 14:13 So Joshua blessed him; and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.
- Josh 14:14 Therefore Hebron has become the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day because he fully followed Jehovah the God of Israel.
- Heb 3:14 For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end--

I. First Corinthians takes the history of the children of Israel in the Old Testament as a type of the New Testament believers—10:5-11; 5:7-8; 10:1-2:

- 1 Cor 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for they were strewn along in the wilderness.
- 1 Cor 10:6 Now these things occurred as examples to us, that we should not be ones who lust after evil things, even as they also lusted.
- 1 Cor 10:7 Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play."
- 1 Cor 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed fornication, and there fell in one day twenty-three thousand.
- 1 Cor 10:9 Neither let us test Christ, as some of them tested Him and were destroyed by the serpents.
- 1 Cor 10:10 Neither murmur, just as some of them murmured and perished by the destroyer.
- 1 Cor 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition, unto whom the ends of the ages have come.
- 1 Cor 5:7 Purge out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, even as you are unleavened; for our Passover, Christ, also has been sacrificed.
- 1 Cor 5:8 So then let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- 1 Cor 10:1 For I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
- 1 Cor 10:2 And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
- A. Paul warned the believers not to repeat the history of the children of Israel in doing evil things against God—vv. 6-11.
- 1 Cor 10:6 Now these things occurred as examples to us, that we should not be ones who lust after evil things, even as they also lusted.
- 1 Cor 10:7 Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play."
- 1 Cor 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed fornication, and there fell in one day twenty-three thousand.
- 1 Cor 10:9 Neither let us test Christ, as some of them tested Him and were destroyed by the serpents.
- 1 Cor 10:10 Neither murmur, just as some of them murmured and perished by the destroyer.
- 1 Cor 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition, unto whom the ends of the ages have come.

- B. The goal of God's calling of the children of Israel was that they would enter into the promised land to enjoy its riches so that they might establish God's kingdom and be God's expression on earth—Exo. 3:7-8:

Exo 3:7 And Jehovah said, I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows.

Exo 3:8 And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.

1. However, although all Israel was redeemed through the passover, delivered out of the Egyptian tyranny, and brought to the mountain of God to receive the revelation of God's dwelling place, the tabernacle, nearly all fell and died in the wilderness, failing to reach this goal because of their evildoings and unbelief—Heb. 3:7-19; 1 Cor. 10:5, 7-10.

Heb 3:7 Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice,

Heb 3:8 Do not harden your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of trial in the wilderness,

Heb 3:9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me and saw My works for forty years.

Heb 3:10 Therefore I was displeased with this generation, and I said, They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways;

Heb 3:11 As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest!"

Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.

Heb 3:13 But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called "today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin--

Heb 3:14 For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end--

Heb 3:15 While it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the provocation."

Heb 3:16 For who provoked Him when they heard? Indeed was it not all who came out of Egypt by Moses?

Heb 3:17 And with whom was He displeased for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

Heb 3:18 And to whom did He swear that they should not enter into His rest, except to the disobedient?

Heb 3:19 And we see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief.

1 Cor 10:5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for they were strewn along in the wilderness.

1 Cor 10:7 Neither become idolaters, as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and stood up to play."

1 Cor 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed fornication, and there fell in one day twenty-three thousand.

1 Cor 10:9 Neither let us test Christ, as some of them tested Him and were destroyed by the serpents.

1 Cor 10:10 Neither murmur, just as some of them murmured and perished by the destroyer.

2. Only Caleb and Joshua reached the goal and entered into the good land—Num. 14:27-30.

Num 14:27 How long shall I bear with this evil assembly, which murmurs against Me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they are making against Me.

Num 14:28 Say to them, As I live, declares Jehovah, just as you have spoken in My ears, so will I do to you.

Num 14:29 Your corpses shall fall in this wilderness, and none of you who were numbered, according to the number you counted from twenty years old and upward, who have murmured against Me,

Num 14:30 Shall come into the land, in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.

3. This signifies that although we have been redeemed through Christ, delivered out of Satan's bondage, and brought into the revelation of God's economy, we may yet fail to reach the goal of God's calling, that is, to enter into the possession of our good land, Christ (Phil. 3:12-14), and enjoy His riches for the kingdom of God so that we may be His expression in the present age and participate in the fullest enjoyment of Christ in the kingdom age (Matt. 25:21, 23).

Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,

Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward.

Matt 25:21 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

Matt 25:23 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.

4. This should be a solemn warning to all New Testament believers about repeating the failure of the children of Israel in the wilderness—1 Cor. 10:6, 11:

1 Cor 10:6 Now these things occurred as examples to us, that we should not be ones who lust after evil things, even as they also lusted.

1 Cor 10:11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our admonition, unto whom the ends of the ages have come.

- a. Without God's mercy and grace, we would be the same as the children of Israel—Rom. 9:15-16.

Rom 9:15 For to Moses He says, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."

Rom 9:16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

- b. We need to read the history of Israel as our history, paying careful attention to Numbers 13 and 14.

Num 13, 14 be omitted.

II. Of all the children of Israel who came out of Egypt, only two, Joshua and Caleb, entered the good land—Deut. 1:34-38; Num. 13:17-14:38:

Deut 1:34 And Jehovah heard the voice of your words, and He became furious and swore, saying,

Deut 1:35 Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall by any means see the good land which I have sworn to give to your fathers,

Deut 1:36 Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it. And to him I will give the land on which he has trodden, and to his children, because he has fully followed Jehovah.

Deut 1:37 With me also Jehovah was angry on your account, saying, You also shall not enter there;

Deut 1:38 Joshua the son of Nun, who attends to you, he shall enter there. Strengthen him, for it is he who will cause Israel to inherit it.

Num 13:17~14:38 be omitted.

- A. Although all were redeemed, only two overcomers, Joshua and Caleb, received the prize of the good land—Josh. 14:6-14; 19:49-51.

Josh 14:6 Then the children of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal; and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, You know the word that Jehovah spoke to Moses the man of God concerning me and concerning you in Kadesh-barnea.

Josh 14:7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of Jehovah sent me out from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I returned such a word to him as was genuinely upon my heart.

Josh 14:8 However my brothers who went up with me made the people's heart melt, but I fully followed Jehovah my God.

Josh 14:9 And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, for you have fully followed Jehovah my God.

Josh 14:10 And now, look, Jehovah has kept me alive, as He said, for these forty-five years, since the time Jehovah spoke this word to Moses while Israel walked through the wilderness. And now, look, today I am eighty-five years old.

Josh 14:11 Today I am still as strong as I was on the day Moses sent me out; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for battle and for going out and coming in.

Josh 14:12 Now therefore give me this hill country, of which Jehovah spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that the Anakim were there with great fortified cities. It may be that Jehovah will be with me, and I will dispossess them, as Jehovah said.

Josh 14:13 So Joshua blessed him; and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.

Josh 14:14 Therefore Hebron has become the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day because he fully followed Jehovah the God of Israel.

Josh 19:49 So they finished distributing the land as inheritances according to its borders. And the children of Israel gave Joshua the son of Nun an inheritance in the midst of them;

Josh 19:50 According to the commandment of Jehovah they gave him the city that he asked for, that is, Timnath-serah in the hill country of Ephraim. And he built up the city and dwelt in it.

Josh 19:51 These are the inheritances that Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers' houses of the tribes of the children of Israel gave as inheritances by lot in Shiloh before Jehovah at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting. So they finished dividing the land.

B. According to the record in Numbers 13 and 14, the people had an evil heart of unbelief—13:31-33; 14:1-3, 9, 11:

Num 13, 14 be omitted.

Num 13:31 But the men who went up with him said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.

Num 13:32 And they brought to the children of Israel an evil report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great size.

Num 13:33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.

Num 14:1 Then the whole assembly lifted up their voice and cried, and the people wept that night.

Num 14:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron; and the whole assembly said to them, If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!

Num 14:3 And why does Jehovah bring us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder. Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?

Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.

Num 14:11 And Jehovah said to Moses, How long will this people despise Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them?

1. Nothing is more offensive to God than unbelief—Heb. 3:8-12.
 - Heb 3:8 Do not harden your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of trial in the wilderness,
 - Heb 3:9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me and saw My works for forty years.
 - Heb 3:10 Therefore I was displeased with this generation, and I said, They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways;
 - Heb 3:11 As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest!"
 - Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.
2. Unbelief is evil because it insults the living, faithful, and almighty God; if we do not believe in God, in His work and in His ways (Psa. 103:7), we insult Him.
 - Psa 103:7 He made His ways known to Moses; / His acts, to the children of Israel.

3. Nothing insults God more than our unbelief, and nothing honors Him more than our belief in Him—John 14:1; Rom. 10:9-10.
- John 14:1 Do not let your heart be troubled; believe into God, believe also into Me.
Rom 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;
Rom 10:10 For with the heart there is believing unto righteousness, and with the mouth there is confession unto salvation.
- C. Because the people believed neither in God nor in His word and even murmured against Him (Num. 14:1-4), God swore in His wrath that not one of the unbelieving generation would enter into the good land; only Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter (Deut. 1:34-38).
- Num 14:1 Then the whole assembly lifted up their voice and cried, and the people wept that night.
Num 14:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron; and the whole assembly said to them, If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!
Num 14:3 And why does Jehovah bring us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder. Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?
Num 14:4 And they said one to another, Let us appoint a captain, and let us return to Egypt.
Deut 1:34 And Jehovah heard the voice of your words, and He became furious and swore, saying,
Deut 1:35 Not one of these men, this evil generation, shall by any means see the good land which I have sworn to give to your fathers,
Deut 1:36 Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it. And to him I will give the land on which he has trodden, and to his children, because he has fully followed Jehovah.
Deut 1:37 With me also Jehovah was angry on your account, saying, You also shall not enter there;
Deut 1:38 Joshua the son of Nun, who attends to you, he shall enter there. Strengthen him, for it is he who will cause Israel to inherit it.
- D. As indicated by the evil report of the ten spies (Num. 13:31-33) and the murmuring of the people (14:1-4), the children of Israel did not care for God but cared only for themselves:
- Num 13:31 But the men who went up with him said, We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.
Num 13:32 And they brought to the children of Israel an evil report of the land which they had spied out, saying, The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that eats up its inhabitants; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great size.
Num 13:33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.
Num 14:1 Then the whole assembly lifted up their voice and cried, and the people wept that night.
Num 14:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron; and the whole assembly said to them, If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!
Num 14:3 And why does Jehovah bring us into this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become plunder. Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?
Num 14:4 And they said one to another, Let us appoint a captain, and let us return to Egypt.
1. In everything and in every way they were for themselves, not for God's interests.
 2. Because of this, they did not believe in God, and they offended God to such an extent that they became abhorrent to Him.
 3. Their situation brought in God's judgment and punishment.
- E. Joshua and Caleb took the word of God as their faith—13:30; 14:7-9:
- Num 13:30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.
Num 14:7 And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land.
Num 14:8 If Jehovah is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us; a land which flows with milk and honey.

- Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.
1. Joshua and Caleb believed in the word of God, obeyed the Lord, and pressed toward the goal.
 2. Joshua and Caleb honored God, and God, in turn, honored them—v. 38.
Num 14:38 Only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive out of those men who went to spy out the land.
 3. God alone is the source of faith; if we would have faith, we must learn to care for God’s interests and not for our benefit.
 4. The example of Joshua and Caleb in the Bible shows us what it is to believe—13:30; 14:7-9:
Num 13:30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.
Num 14:7 And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land.
Num 14:8 If Jehovah is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us; a land which flows with milk and honey.
Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.
 - a. Joshua and Caleb were not the ones who overcame in Numbers 13 and 14; it was the One in whom they trusted.
Num 13, 14 be omitted.
 - b. God did everything; they simply enjoyed what God did—v. 8.
Num 13:8 From the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea the son of Nun;
 5. We should follow the example of Joshua and Caleb; they had hearts full of faith—13:30.
Num 13:30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

III. We need to be today’s Calebs, partners of Christ, who is the real Joshua—14:24; Josh. 14:6-14; Heb. 2:10; 3:14:

- Num 14:24 Only My servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit and has fully followed Me, will I bring into the land which he entered; and his descendants shall take possession of it.
- Josh 14:6 Then the children of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal; and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, You know the word that Jehovah spoke to Moses the man of God concerning me and concerning you in Kadesh-barnea.
- Josh 14:7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of Jehovah sent me out from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I returned such a word to him as was genuinely upon my heart.
- Josh 14:8 However my brothers who went up with me made the people’s heart melt, but I fully followed Jehovah my God.
- Josh 14:9 And Moses swore on that day, saying, Surely the land on which your foot has trodden will be an inheritance to you and to your children forever, for you have fully followed Jehovah my God.
- Josh 14:10 And now, look, Jehovah has kept me alive, as He said, for these forty-five years, since the time Jehovah spoke this word to Moses while Israel walked through the wilderness. And now, look, today I am eighty-five years old.
- Josh 14:11 Today I am still as strong as I was on the day Moses sent me out; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for battle and for going out and coming in.
- Josh 14:12 Now therefore give me this hill country, of which Jehovah spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that the Anakim were there with great fortified cities. It may be that Jehovah will be with me, and I will dispossess them, as Jehovah said.
- Josh 14:13 So Joshua blessed him; and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.
- Josh 14:14 Therefore Hebron has become the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day because he fully followed Jehovah the God of Israel.

- Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- Heb 3:14 For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end--
- A. Christ, the Captain of salvation, is the real Joshua, leading us to take possession of the land, and we, today's Calebs, are His partners, fighting with Him against the enemies and sharing with Him in taking and possessing the land—2:10; 3:14:
- Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.
- Heb 3:14 For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end--
1. Christ has been anointed by God to carry out God's commission, and we as His partners share with Him in carrying out God's commission.
 2. Hebrews 3:7-14 deals with entering the good land; the type of this entering the good land was the entering of the land under the leadership of Joshua (Josh. 1:1-6), and Caleb was his partner in possessing the good land (Num. 32:12; Josh. 14:6-8).

Heb 3:7 Therefore, even as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear His voice,

Heb 3:8 Do not harden your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of trial in the wilderness,

Heb 3:9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me and saw My works for forty years.

Heb 3:10 Therefore I was displeased with this generation, and I said, They always go astray in their heart, and they have not known My ways;

Heb 3:11 As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest!"

Heb 3:12 Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God.

Heb 3:13 But exhort one another each day, as long as it is called "today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin--

Heb 3:14 For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end--

Josh 1:1 After the death of Moses the servant of Jehovah, Jehovah spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' attendant, saying,

Josh 1:2 Moses My servant is dead; now then arise, and cross over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land which I am giving to them, to the children of Israel.

Josh 1:3 Every place on which the sole of your foot treads I have given to you, as I promised Moses.

Josh 1:4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even to the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the setting of the sun will be your territory.

Josh 1:5 No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you nor forsake you.

Josh 1:6 Be strong and take courage, for you will cause this people to inherit the land which I swore to their fathers to give to them.

Num 32:12 Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite and Joshua the son of Nun, because they have fully followed Jehovah.

Josh 14:6 Then the children of Judah approached Joshua in Gilgal; and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, You know the word that Jehovah spoke to Moses the man of God concerning me and concerning you in Kadesh-barnea.

Josh 14:7 I was forty years old when Moses the servant of Jehovah sent me out from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I returned such a word to him as was genuinely upon my heart.

Josh 14:8 However my brothers who went up with me made the people's heart melt, but I fully followed Jehovah my God.
 3. Today Christ is the real Joshua, and we are His Calebs, His partners—Heb. 2:10; 3:14.

Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading many sons into glory, to make the Author of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

- Heb 3:14 For we have become partners of Christ, if indeed we hold fast the beginning of the assurance firm to the end-
4. As Christ's partners, we are working together with Him and cooperating with Him to fulfill God's desire to have a corporate expression of Himself.
- B. Caleb had a different spirit and fully followed the Lord by a different spirit, which was different from all the other spirits—Num. 14:24.
- Num 14:24 Only My servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit and has fully followed Me, will I bring into the land which he entered; and his descendants shall take possession of it.
- C. We must be resolute and determined in our will to stand with the Lord, just as Caleb fully followed God—vv. 6-9, 24; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:14:
- Num 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who spied out the land, tore their clothes.
- Num 14:7 And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land.
- Num 14:8 If Jehovah is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us; a land which flows with milk and honey.
- Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.
- Num 14:24 Only My servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit and has fully followed Me, will I bring into the land which he entered; and his descendants shall take possession of it.
- Deut 1:36 Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it. And to him I will give the land on which he has trodden, and to his children, because he has fully followed Jehovah.
- Josh 14:14 Therefore Hebron has become the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day because he fully followed Jehovah the God of Israel.
1. Caleb fully followed the Lord because he knew that God wanted the children of Israel to enter into the good land—Num. 14:24; Deut. 1:36; Josh. 14:8.

Num 14:24 Only My servant Caleb, because he had a different spirit and has fully followed Me, will I bring into the land which he entered; and his descendants shall take possession of it.

Deut 1:36 Except Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it. And to him I will give the land on which he has trodden, and to his children, because he has fully followed Jehovah.

Josh 14:8 However my brothers who went up with me made the people's heart melt, but I fully followed Jehovah my God.
 2. Since God wanted them to enter the good land, He would fight for them and accomplish everything for them—Num. 14:7-8.

Num 14:7 And they spoke to the whole assembly of the children of Israel, saying, The land through which we passed to spy out is an exceedingly good land.

Num 14:8 If Jehovah is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us; a land which flows with milk and honey.
 3. Caleb knew that God would fight on their behalf and destroy the enemies.
- D. Joshua and Caleb did not fear the Nephilim or the inhabitants of the land of Canaan but said, "They are our bread"—v. 9:
- Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.
1. Caleb believed that the Nephilim (Anakim) would be defeated and become their bread because he knew that God had promised to bring them into the land—13:30, 33.

Num 13:30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

Num 13:33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the descendants of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.

2. Caleb's experience demonstrates that the more Nephilim we eat, the stronger we will become; he was full of vitality at eighty-five because by assimilating so many Anakim over the years, he had developed a constitution that showed no trace of age—Josh. 14:10-14.
 - Josh 14:10 And now, look, Jehovah has kept me alive, as He said, for these forty-five years, since the time Jehovah spoke this word to Moses while Israel walked through the wilderness. And now, look, today I am eighty-five years old.
 - Josh 14:11 Today I am still as strong as I was on the day Moses sent me out; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for battle and for going out and coming in.
 - Josh 14:12 Now therefore give me this hill country, of which Jehovah spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that the Anakim were there with great fortified cities. It may be that Jehovah will be with me, and I will dispossess them, as Jehovah said.
 - Josh 14:13 So Joshua blessed him; and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance.
 - Josh 14:14 Therefore Hebron has become the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day because he fully followed Jehovah the God of Israel.
3. Our battle with the enemy will be a defeat to him, but it will be bread for us; the defeated enemy is the most tasteful bread—Num. 14:9.
 - Num 14:9 Only do not rebel against Jehovah, nor should you fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has been removed from them, and Jehovah is with us; do not fear them.
4. The enemy will be our food, and swallowing him will be our satisfaction.

IV. As today's Calebs fighting for God's interest, it is crucial for us to see a vision of the all-inclusive Christ typified by the good land and to conquer the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy—Deut. 8:7-10; Eph. 1:10; Rom. 16:20:

- Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;
- Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;
- Deut 8:9 A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.
- Deut 8:10 And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.
- Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- Rom 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

A. The good land, the land of Canaan, is a type of the all-inclusive Christ, the Christ who is all and in all and who is everything to us—Deut. 8:7-10:

- Deut 8:7 For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains;
- Deut 8:8 A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey;
- Deut 8:9 A land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper.
- Deut 8:10 And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you.

1. The good land provided whatever the children of Israel needed: water, wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive trees, animals, milk, honey, stones, iron, copper.
2. The good land surely is a type of the all-inclusive Christ, the embodiment of the Triune God given to us as our inheritance—Acts 26:18; Col. 1:12.
 - Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.

- Col 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- B. In order to possess the good land, we need to engage in spiritual warfare to conquer the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy—Eph. 1:10; 6:10-12; Rom. 16:20:
- Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
- Rom 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
1. The history of the universe is a history of God’s economy and Satan’s chaos—Gen. 1:1-2, 26; Rev. 20:10-21:4:
- Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- Gen 1:2 But the earth became waste and emptiness, and darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was brooding upon the surface of the waters.
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where also the beast and the false prophet were; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose face earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.
- Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened; and another scroll was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by the things which were written in the scrolls, according to their works.
- Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, each of them, according to their works.
- Rev 20:14 And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.
- Rev 20:15 And if anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.
- Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and the sea is no more.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will tabernacle with them, and they will be His peoples, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- Rev 21:4 And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death will be no more, nor will there be sorrow or crying or pain anymore; for the former things have passed away.
- a. Satan is the source of chaos, and God Himself is the divine economy.
- b. Both in the Bible and in our experience, the satanic chaos always goes along with the divine economy—2 Cor. 4:6; 1 Tim. 1:4.
- 2 Cor 4:6 Because the God who said, Out of darkness light shall shine, is the One who shined in our hearts to illuminate the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
- 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God’s economy, which is in faith.

2. Instead of delivering us from chaos, God wants us to be one with Him to conquer the destructive satanic chaos and to carry out the constructive divine economy—Eph. 3:8-10; 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
 - Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
 - Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
 - 2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, they have become new.
3. As we are suffering the chaos, we need to stand for and live out the divine economy—1 Tim. 1:4, 18; 2 Tim. 4:7.
 - 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
 - 1 Tim 1:18 This charge I commit to you, my child Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you might war the good warfare,
 - 2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.
4. The overcomers conquer the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy—1 Tim. 1:3-4, 19-20; 4:1-2; Titus 3:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8:
 - 1 Tim 1:3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things
 - 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
 - 1 Tim 1:19 Holding faith and a good conscience, concerning which some, thrusting these away, have become shipwrecked regarding the faith;
 - 1 Tim 1:20 Of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have delivered to Satan that they may be disciplined not to blaspheme.
 - 1 Tim 4:1 But the Spirit says expressly that in later times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and teachings of demons
 - 1 Tim 4:2 By means of the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, of men who are branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron,
 - Titus 3:10 A factious man, after a first and second admonition, refuse,
 - 2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith.
 - 2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.
 - a. The overcomers suffer the chaos, but instead of being disappointed or discouraged, they are strengthened and enabled to stand for and live out the divine economy according to the truth—Eph. 3:16; 6:10-12.
 - Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
 - Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
 - Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
 - Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
 - b. We conquer the chaos by the processed and consummated Triune God as the all-sufficient grace—1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Tim. 4:22.
 - 1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am; and His grace unto me did not turn out to be in vain, but, on the contrary, I labored more abundantly than all of them, yet not I but the grace of God which is with me.
 - 2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
 - 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.