

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying  
Message Eleven : Partners of Christ Fighting for God's interest

**I. Overview:**

The history of the children of Israel in the Old Testament is a type of the New Testament believers. Paul warned the believers not to repeat the history of the children of Israel, that nearly all fell and died in the wilderness because of their evildoings and unbelief. Only Caleb and Joshua reached the goal and entered into the good land. We need to be today's Calebs, partners of Christ, who is the real Joshua. Caleb had a different spirit and fully followed the Lord because he knew that God wanted the children of Israel to enter into the good land and would fight on their behalf to destroy the enemies. Caleb believed that the Anakim would be defeated and become their bread because God had promised to bring them into the land. As today's Calebs fighting for God's interest, we need to see a vision of the good land and to conquer the satanic chaos and triumph in the divine economy. In order to possess the good land, we need to engage in spiritual warfare to conquer the satanic chaos.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. What warning should we have as the Israelites had been redeemed yet nearly all died in the wilderness due to their unbelief?

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, and enjoy His riches for the kingdom of God. This should be a solemn warning to all New Testament believers.

B. Explain that it's a serious thing to touch the church being to touch God's way.

We should not think that it is a small thing to touch the church, the church life, the way of the church, or the ground of the church. Without the church, God has no way to go on. In the Old Testament, the children of Israel were God's way. If God had not been able to accomplish His purpose with them, He would not have had a way on earth. Today the church is God's way. It is a serious matter to say something evil or good about the church.

Day 2 —

A. Expound that no heart is more evil than a heart of unbelief.

Nothing offends God as much as our unbelief. David committed a dreadful sin, murdering a man and taking his wife. Governmentally speaking, however, this sin was not that serious, for it did not cause God to give up David. But the unbelief of the children of Israel in the wilderness caused God to give them up. Unbelief insults and offends God Himself.

B. Compare what God's ways are different from His acts.

His acts are His activities; His ways are the principles by which He acts. The children of Israel only knew His acts, but Moses knew His ways. In the wilderness the children of Israel saw a miracle of the manna nearly every morning. Although the children of Israel witnessed such a miracle, they, unlike Moses, saw only the acts of God; they did not know God's ways. He is faithful, always keeping His promises and fulfilling His word.

Day 3 —

A. Why did God swear in wrath that none of the unbelieving ones would see the good land?

God had gone before them in the fire by night and in the cloud by day, seeking out places for them to camp and showing them the way they should go, yet the evil report brought back by ten of the twelve men with an evil heart of unbelief, believing neither in God nor in His promise. They even murmured against God, saying that God brought them into the land to fall by the sword and to become a plunder.

B. What should we do sometimes our faith may be very weak and small?

Since this may be our situation, we should learn to humble ourselves before God, confessing the weakness of our faith and asking Him to forgive us. This is the spirit we should have before God. But as indicated by what they said, the children of Israel did not care for God but only for themselves. They did not confess their weakness or humble themselves before God. Eventually, they became abhorrent to Him.

Day 4 —

A. How can we boast that we have faith?

Faith is of God, faith is in God, and faith comes from God. If we would have faith, we must learn to care for God's interests and not for our benefit. Faith stops our activities. Faith always praises God. Joshua and Caleb were not the ones who overcame in Numbers 13 and 14; it was the One in whom they trusted. God did everything. They simply enjoyed what God did.

B. What was Caleb different from most of the Israelites in Numbers 14:24?

At the time of Numbers 14:24 most of the Israelites were quite rebellious toward God, but Caleb was different. He had a different spirit. Verse 24 then says that Caleb fully followed the Lord. We have no other way to follow the Lord. If we are going to follow the Lord, we have to use the proper organ, our human spirit. Caleb followed the Lord by a different spirit, which was different from all the other spirits.

Day 5 —

A. Explain that Caleb had developed a constitution of many Anakim being eaten by him, which showed no trace of age.

The inhabitants of the land were admittedly "men of great size," but in Caleb's eyes, they were food for God's people. He not only honored God's promises; he despised all the difficulties. Everyone who has genuine faith honors God and lightly esteems all difficulties. Because Caleb accepted the Anakim as "bread," his strength was the same at eighty-five as it was at forty.

B. Why have some saints met few difficulties, but they are so weak in their lives?

They are weak before the Lord because they have not consumed enough Anakim. However, there are those who have met and overcome difficulty after difficulty; they are full of vigor because they have fed well on Anakim. We have to eat our difficulties and our temptation. Every difficulty and every temptation Satan puts in our way is food for us. This is a God-appointed means of spiritual progress.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the Christian life being a mixture of economy and chaos.

The Christian life is a miniature of the entire universe. The history of the universe is a history of God's economy and Satan's chaos. Furthermore, the entire Bible is a record of the divine economy and the satanic chaos. In our married life we also have the economy of God and the chaos of Satan. The reason for this situation is that in the universe there are two sources, God and Satan.

B. How should overcomers do with facing God's economy and Satan's chaos?

We are in the Lord's recovery, which is for the carrying out of God's economy on the earth. The overcomers are those who suffer the chaos, but they are not disappointed or discouraged. Instead, they are strengthened and enabled to stand for and live out the divine economy. The overcomers were called by the Lord to be one with Him to conquer and to overcome His enemy.

### **III. Conclusion:**

Numbers denoted two million Israelites, among them included six hundred thousand armies, yet nearly all fell and died in the wilderness because of their evil doings and unbelief. Paul especially used of the word examples in 1 Corinthians 10:6 to warn them not to repeat the history of the children of Israel in doing evil against God. But Joshua and Caleb took the word of God as their faith, believed and said, "Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." We should take the example of Joshua and Caleb; they had hearts full of faith to follow God absolutely. The inhabitants of the land were admittedly "men of great size," but in Caleb's eyes, they were food for God's people. He not only honored God's promises; he despised all the difficulties. Everyone who has genuine faith honors God and lightly esteems all difficulties. Because Caleb accepted the Anakim as "bread," he became a pattern of overcomers through all generations.