



THE PEOPLE DOUBTED



Numbers 13-14

The Lord spoke to Moses and told him to send men to the land of Canaan. This was the land God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob many years ago. **Moses selected one man from every tribe of Israel, twelve men in all. He told the men, “Go up into the land and see what it is like.** Tell us how many people are there, and if they look strong or weak. Tell us if the land looks good for crops **and if it looks like a good place to live.”**

So the men went up into the land and spent 40 days there. When they returned, they showed the Israelites some grapes, pomegranates, and figs they had taken. **They said, “This land is flowing with milk and honey. However, the people in the land are strong, and their cities are large and very well defended.** The people in the land are giants.”

Caleb said, “Let’s go up there now! We can surely conquer the land.” But some of the other men said, “We can’t attack the people! They are stronger than we are. We felt like little grasshoppers compared to how big they were!”

The people were afraid. They didn’t think that they would be able to conquer the land God had promised. Some of them wished God had never led them out of Egypt. **They doubted that God would keep His promise and help them win.**

But two of the men, Joshua and Caleb, said, “The land we passed through is an extremely good land. If the Lord is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us. **Don’t rebel against the Lord, and don’t fear the people. The Lord is with us!”**

The glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting, and He said, “How long will these people doubt Me after all that I have done for them? None of the people who doubted Me will ever see the land I promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, except for Caleb and Joshua. Everyone else will die in the wilderness. Their children will enjoy the land, but they will not enter it.”



Christ Connection: *Joshua and Caleb believed the words that God had spoken, and they were eventually allowed to enter the Promised Land. The people who did not believe would die in the wilderness. If we believe the words God has spoken about Jesus and place our faith in Him, we will be saved from our sin and will enter the new heaven and new earth.*