
Caleb and the Mountain



Numbers 13

13 The Lord said to Moses, **2** “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

3 So at the Lord’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

6 from the tribe of Judah, Caleb son of Jephunneh;

8 from the tribe of Ephraim, Hoshea son of Nun;

16 These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)

17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. **18** See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. **19** What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? **20** How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

21 So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. **22** They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) **23** When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. **24** That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. **25** At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. **27** They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. **28** But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. **29** The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “**We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.**”

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” **32** And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. **33** We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

Numbers 14

1 4 That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. **2** All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! **3** Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” **4** And they said to each other, “*We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.*”

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. **6** Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes **7** and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. **8** If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. **9** Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

10 But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites. **11** The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them? **12** I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they.”

22 not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—**23** not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. **24** But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it. **25** Since the Amalekites and the Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.”

Joshua 14

6 Now the people of Judah approached Joshua at Gilgal, and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, “You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God at Kadesh Barnea about you and me. **7** I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to explore the land. And I brought him back a report according to my convictions, **8** but my fellow Israelites who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt in fear. I, however, followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.

9 So on that day Moses swore to me, 'The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the Lord my God wholeheartedly.' 10 "Now then, just as the Lord promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the wilderness. So here I am today, eighty-five years old! 11 I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. 12 **Now give me this (mountain) hill country that the Lord promised me that day.** You yourself heard then that the Anakites were there and their cities were large and fortified, *but, the Lord helping me, I will drive them out just as he said.*"

13 Then Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave him Hebron as his inheritance. **14** *So Hebron has belonged to Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite ever since, because he followed the Lord, the God of Israel, wholeheartedly.* **15** (Hebron used to be called Kiriath Arba after Arba, who was the greatest man among the Anakites.)



Takeaways from Caleb:

- You become who you listen to
- You become who you hang out with
- If you serve the Lord wholeheartedly, you will always win
- Get your report from heaven
- Age isn't a factor of attitude