

GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Lesson Eighteen

GOD CALLED JOSHUA AND CALEB

(Num. 13:1-3, 17; 14:10, 22-24, 29-30, 36-38; Josh. 1:1-9)

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how Joshua and Caleb wholly followed the Lord and finally brought God's people Israel into the promised land of Canaan. Ten of the twelve spies who searched out the rich promised land returned with an evil report of disbelief and discouraged the people so much that they no longer believed the Lord's promise that they could take the land as their inheritance. The other two spies, Joshua and Caleb, believed the Lord's word and told them to "go up at once" to possess the land. Thus, through the leadership of Joshua and Caleb, God's people entered into the long-promised land of Canaan, destroyed the enemies, and possessed the land.

Memory Verse: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed: for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Facts to Teach:

1. After two years of living in the desert under God's care and provision, the children of Israel came to the border of the promised land.
2. Moses chose twelve men of the twelve tribes of Israel and sent them as spies into the land of Canaan to search it out; to see whether the people were weak or strong, few or many; whether the land was good or bad.
3. They searched out the land for forty days and then returned to their camp. They brought a sample of the rich fruit of the land with them. It took two men to carry one bunch of grapes on a pole back to the camp. What a rich land!
4. Ten of the spies gave an evil report and discouraged the hearts of the children of Israel. They told them that the land did flow with milk and honey, BUT:
 - a. The people of the land were too strong for them to war against and win.
 - b. The cities were very strong and fortified with great, high walls.
 - c. There were many enemies dwelling in all the land.
 - d. There were giants in the land, and the Israelites were like grasshoppers in their sight.
5. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, gave a very good report of the land, saying, "The land we passed through to

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Lesson Eighteen (Continued)

search it, is an exceeding good land...flowing with milk and honey" (Num. 14:7-8). Furthermore, they believed in the Lord's promise to give them the land so they spoke to the people very boldly to encourage their hearts.

a. Caleb said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Num. 13:30).

b. Joshua told the people, "If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us...Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land...the Lord is with us: fear them not" (Num. 14:8-9).

6. Because the people believed the evil report of the ten spies, they were about to stone Joshua and Caleb to death.

7. The Lord saved their lives. But He would not tolerate the people's evil, hardened heart of unbelief and provocation. Unbelief insults God to the uttermost. God told them that none of them would enter into the land; they would wander in the wilderness forty years until they died. Only the children, those under twenty years of age, and faithful Joshua and Caleb, could enter into the land promised to their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

8. The Lord was pleased with Joshua and Caleb because they wholly followed Him (Num. 32:12) and had another spirit (Num. 14:24); that is, a believing, obedient, and exercised spirit. The ten spies that brought up the evil report died from a plague before the Lord, but Joshua and Caleb lived (Num. 14:37-38).

9. Forty long, testing years passed and all those over twenty years of age died in the desert, never entering into the promised land. After Moses also died, the Lord called Joshua (Moses' young attendant) and told him to rise up and lead all the children of Israel over the Jordan River into the land that the Lord would give them as their inheritance (Josh. 1:1, 2, 6).

10. Through Joshua's leadership God's people Israel finally reached the goal He had intended for them over forty years earlier when they were delivered from the slavery of Egypt through Moses. "Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. And the land rested from war" (Josh. 11:23).

[If the children should ask why Moses died in the wilderness and did not inherit the promised land since he did not rebel or believe the ten evil spies, it can be explained to them that Moses disobeyed the Lord in a very serious matter one time in the wilderness and was thus disallowed to enter the promised land. This point should be avoided at this time, if possible, for there is not enough time to cover it adequately.]