

Sh'lach L'cha

Numbers 13:1 - 15:41

“Send for yourself”

Pray First

Father God,
We praise You because of
Your redeeming love. We thank
You because You are
Omnipotent and You are
Holy. Teach us to know Your
character so that we may
place our trust in You daily
and demonstrate our faith to
others.

In Yeshua's name we pray,
Amen

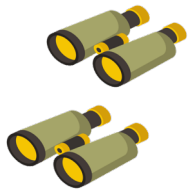
Read: Numbers 13:1 - 15:41

In this week's Parasha we learn that God's call upon the children of Yisra'el (Israel) will challenge their faith in God. God commands Moshe (Moses) to send spies into the land of Canaan, the Promised Land that God would give to the Children of Yisra'el. Taking over the land of Canaan would be a big task from a human perspective, and God wanted the Children of Yisra'el to trust Him. When the moment came for them to obey God and trust Him, instead of acting in faith, they let fear rule them and did not trust in God. They rebelled against God. What should have been a wonderful story of obedience, faith, and trust in God, instead shows us the consequences of what happens when we do not trust in God, and choose to rebel against Him.

Focus Passage :: Numbers 13:1 - 14:38

Numbers 13:1-2 says that God spoke to Moshe (Moses) and instructed Moshe to send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which God was going to give to the Children of Yisra'el (Israel). They were to scout out the land and see what the land was like. One man from each tribe of their

fathers was to be sent. Every one of the men was to be a leader that was among them. Moshe obeyed God and sent them from the Wilderness of Paran.

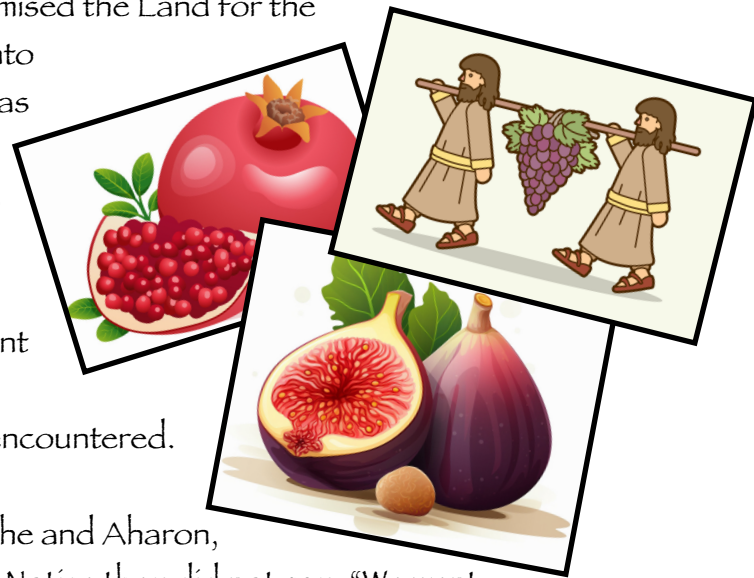


Fill in each blank as you read Numbers 13:3-15.

“So Moshe sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the LORD, all of them men who were heads of the Children of Israel. Now these were their names: from the tribe of Reuben, _____ the son of Zaccur; from the tribe of Simeon, _____ the son of Hori; from the tribe of Judah, _____ the son of Jephunneh; from the tribe of Issachar, _____ the son of Joseph; from the tribe of Ephraim, _____ the son of Nun; from the tribe of Benjamin, _____ the son of Raphu; from the tribe of Zebulun, _____ the son of Sodi; from the tribe of Joseph, that is, from the tribe of Manasseh, _____ the son of Susi; from the tribe of Dan, _____ the son of Gemalli; from the tribe of Asher, _____ the son of Michael; from the tribe of Naphtali, _____ the son of Vophsi; from the tribe of Gad, _____ the son of Malchi.”

Before we go into detail of what happens next, it is important to remember and helpful to see that Yisra'el had just been consecrated to the LORD, given His Torah, and they were in the presence of the LORD. We will see that even though they experienced all of those things, they looked to themselves and did not trust God. Moshe gave the twelve spies specific instructions on where they would go and what they should do. They were to go into the south and go up the mountains, and see whether the people who dwelt there were strong or weak, few or many; whether the land they dwelt in was good or bad; whether the cities they inhabited were like camps or strongholds. They were to see if the land was rich or poor and they were instructed to be of good courage. Scouting the land would let them know what conditions they were facing when they moved into the Promised Land. Moshe instructed them to bring some of the fruit back from the Land.

They went up through the south and they came to Hebron. Hebron is where Avaraham (Abraham) was buried, and it is in Hebron that Avaraham was first promised the Land for the children of Yisra'el. Numbers 13:22 says the spies ran into descendants of Anak. This was a race of people seen as giants. When they arrived in the Valley of Eshkol, they cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes and they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought back some pomegranates and figs. After scouting the Land forty days they returned. They went straight to Moshe and Aahron (Aaron) and all the congregation of Yisra'el and reported what they had encountered.



In Numbers 13:27, when they returned to report to Moshe and Aharon, they said, “We went into the Land where you sent us.” Notice they did not say, “We went into the Land that the LORD promised.” The Scriptures are pointing us to the fact that they were separating themselves from the promises of God. They told the people the land truly flowed with milk and honey, and they showed them the fruit that they brought back. Then came the bad news. They said that the people who dwelt in the land were strong and that the cities were well fortified and very large. They described the descendants of Anak, the giants who were present there, and they described the Amalekites who were thought to be people who wandered the desert regions of Canaan. Fear overcame the congregation of Yisra'el.

In Numbers 13:30 we see great faith being demonstrated because Kalev (Caleb) quieted the people and said, “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are all well able to overcome it.” Kalev had faith in the promises of God and trusted God to provide what the children of Yisra'el needed to overcome any obstacle that they faced. Unfortunately the leaders of Yisra'el did not feel the same. They informed the children of Yisra'el that they would not be able to go up against the people, for they believed the people in the land of Canaan were stronger. They told them that the Land had devoured its inhabitants, and all the people they saw were men of great stature. They described the descendants of Anak again as giants in the Land and said that they were grasshoppers compared to them. This caused great fear in the children

of Yisra'el, and in Numbers 14:1 we see they lifted their voices and cried and wept that night. The moment had come for them to enter the Promised Land and all they had to do was obey God and put their faith and trust in Him in order to inherit the Land. Instead of acting in faith, the people wept all night, murmured against Moshe and Aharon, and wished they had died in the land of Egypt or in the wilderness.

The people asked a very informative question in Numbers 14:3, "Why has the LORD brought us to this Land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims?" This question revealed the real problem with the children of Yisra'el. They knew of the God of Yisra'el, they had been in His presence and seen His wondrous works, however they did not truly know Him. They had no doubt that God existed but they had not yet come to believe that God is a Holy and Righteous God, Who is infinite in Power. It was highly insulting to God to say that He had brought them into the wilderness to die by the sword. Also in Numbers 14:3, they said to Moshe and Aharon, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!" It is clear from this statement that they thought that they knew better than God. Left to themselves they would have returned to Egypt to live a life of bondage.



Moshe and Aharon fell on their faces before all of the congregation of Yisra'el, and Y'hoshua (Joshua) the son of Nun and Kalev the son of Jephunneh, who were among the 12 spies sent out, tore their clothes and spoke to the congregation. They told them that the Land that they passed through was an exceedingly good Land and that if the LORD delighted in them, then He would bring them into the Promised Land. They demonstrated to God and the congregation of Yisra'el absolute trust in God. They gave the people a warning; they told them not to rebel against the LORD, and not to fear the people in the land. They instructed the congregation that the LORD was with Yisra'el and they were not to be in fear. The people did not believe or trust God and went to stone Y'hoshua and Kalev. But, as they did, the Glory of the LORD appeared in the Tabernacle of Meeting before all of the Children of Yisra'el. The LORD asked Moshe, "how long will these people reject me?" Because of their rejection God would strike them with pestilence and disinherit them. God was going to wipe them out and start again with Moshe. Moshe pleaded with God not to annihilate the people. He used the argument with God that He brought the people out of Egypt, and Egypt and the surrounding countries had heard of the redemption of Yisra'el. If God destroyed them, those nations would determine it was because God could not do what He promised and that was to give the Land to Yisra'el.

In Numbers 14:20-22, God responded to Moshe's plea and told him, I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly all the earth shall be filled with the Glory of the LORD. These men who have seen My Glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness have put Me to the test now these ten times, and they have not heeded My voice, they shall not see the Land. God did have

two exceptions: Kalev and Y'hoshua. God saw and acknowledged their faith and trust in Him. Everyone else would not enter the Promised Land. God went on to tell Moshe and Aharon the adults would die in the wilderness and the children they thought would be victims would go into the Promised Land that they despised. The peoples' sons would be shepherds in the wilderness for forty years, one year for every day that the 12 spies scouted in the wilderness.

The men who Moshe sent to spy on the Land and brought a bad report, those very men would die by the plague before the LORD. The only two spies who would live would be Y'hoshua and Kalev because they obeyed the LORD and demonstrated their faith and trust in Him.

Yisra'el's time in the wilderness is a lesson for us in understanding the church today.

Many believers today have the same doubt about God and His ability to keep His Word.

They know that Yeshua is Messiah but they have not come to know Messiah and His power or character. They fail to trust in Yeshua when their faith is challenged. They

are not committed to the will of God and if you are not committed to the will of God you will be deceived. It is

important for believers today to remember no matter what the challenge they may face in their faith, the solution is always the same, trust in the LORD.

"If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'

Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us.

Do not fear them."

-Numbers 14:8-9

**WHEN
YOU ARE
AFRAID**



**AND
TRUST
IN
GOD**

Haftarah



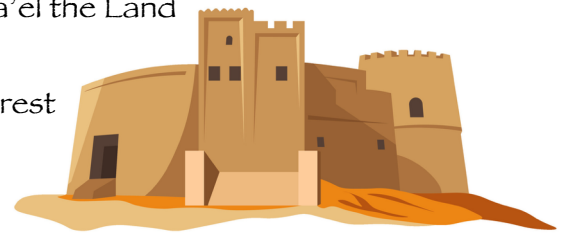
Hidden Spies/ Joshua 2:1-24

In this week's Haftarah, Y'hoshua (Joshua) the son of Nun, sent out two men to secretly spy on the Land that the LORD had promised to the children of Yisra'el (Israel). The LORD had told Y'hoshua to enter the Land because Moshe (Moses) had passed away, and it was now 40 years since the first time the children of Yisra'el had attempted to enter the Promised Land. In our Torah lesson this week we learned that when



Moshe (Moses) sent out 12 spies, one from each tribe, to inspect the Promised Land, 10 of the 12 spies were unfaithful and did not trust that the LORD would provide them the Land. Only two men were faithful and trusted God. Because of their rebellion against God, they would be shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years and know the LORD's rejection. They would wander one year for every day that they spied in the Land that was to be theirs. Our Haftarah starts 40 years later, when the time of wandering was fulfilled. God instructed Y'hoshua to prepare to enter the Promised Land. Y'hoshua sent forth two faithful men. These were men who trusted and obeyed the LORD and knew that He would give the children of Yisra'el the Land

that He promised them. Y'hoshua told the men to inspect Yericho (Jericho). Yericho was a strongly fortified city and if Yericho fell the rest of the land would then belong to the children of Yisra'el.



The two men went out and arrived at the house of a harlot named Rachav (Rahab). Rachav was unique and is going to demonstrate to us that she had been changed by the revelation of God's Word. This change was an eternal change. In Joshua 2:3 the king of Yericho heard that men had arrived from the children of Yisra'el to search the country, so he sent a message to Rachav instructing her to bring out the men who had come to her. Rachav had heard all that the LORD had done for the Children of Yisra'el and she believed all that she had heard. Because of her faith she hid the men that Y'hoshua sent. Rachav replied to the king of Yericho that the men did come to her, however she did not know where they came from. She said she saw the men leave the gate, and that the King of Yericho should pursue them quickly so that they could overtake them. Rachav deceived the King of Yericho because she did not want to participate with an enemy of God. She was literally saving the lives of the two spies that were sent.

Fun Fact:

Did you know that the flax which Rachav hid the spies under is used to make linen cloth?

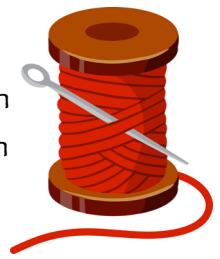
In Joshua 2:6 we read that she hid them on the roof in stalks of flax. Before the men laid down in the flax, Rachav came to the men and said to them: "I know that the LORD has given you the Land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all of the inhabitants of the Land are fainthearted because of you." She was letting

the spies know that the people of Yericho had no resolve to fight. This was not normal for them because historically they were the first to fight. The people of Yericho recognized the result of the children of Yisra'el being in a covenant relationship with the LORD. When we, like the children of Yisra'el, are in a covenant relationship with God, people recognize this.

In Joshua 2:11, Rachav told the spies that as soon as they heard of all the LORD had done for Yisra'el "their hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of them, for the LORD their

God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.” However, just because the people heard what God had done did not mean that they all responded faithfully. Only Rachav responded faithfully, and it was demonstrated through her actions. Rachav was letting the men know that when she encountered God’s testimony, she trusted God, and she was changed.

In Joshua 2:12 Rachav begged the men to swear to her by the LORD that since she had shown them kindness, they would show kindness to her father’s house, and give her a true token, and spare her father, her mother, her brothers, her sisters, and all that they had and deliver their lives from death. The men responded and let her know that if they did not keep their word it would be their lives instead of hers. When the LORD gave them the Land they would deal kindly and truly with her. She then let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall. She then instructed them to go to the mountain, and hide there for three days. The men told her that they would not be responsible for this oath unless when they came into the Land, she bound a line of scarlet cord in the window which she let them down from, and unless she brought her father’s household into her home. In Joshua 2:19 we are told “So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street his blood shall be on his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.” All of these terms Rachav agreed to and then she sent them away. She then bound the scarlet cord to the window. The men departed and went to the mountain and stayed there three days until the men pursuing them returned to Yericho. The two spies returned to Y’hoshua and told him all that had happened. And then they said to Y’hoshua, “Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us.”



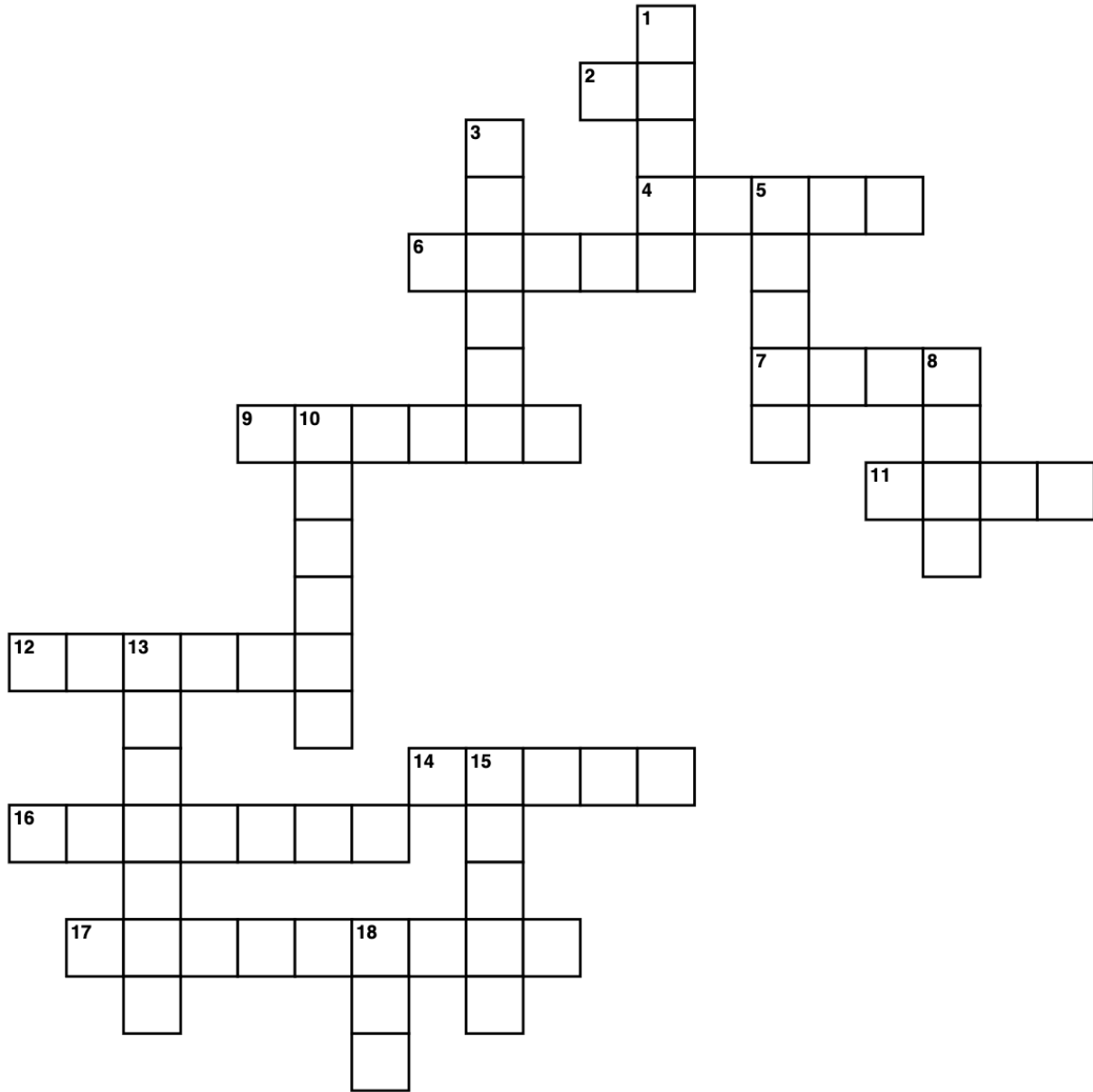
For believers in Messiah Yeshua today there are many lessons we can learn from this teaching in Joshua. Rachav and the spies demonstrated that they trusted in God and the promises of God. The revelation of Who God is and all that He had done changed Rachav so much that we see her in the genealogy of Yeshua. Does the revelation of God and His Word change you? Does it impact how you think and act? Do your actions demonstrate faith and trust in God? The two spies obeyed what God had called them to do through Y’hoshua instructions and because of their obedience and demonstration of faith and trust in God they were protected and shown that the LORD would deliver the Promised Land into the hands of Yisra’el. The two spies were different from the 10 that were sent out 40 years prior; they demonstrated a strong faith and not a weak one. They believed God’s Word and that He would fulfill His promises. As believers in Messiah Yeshua we need to demonstrate our faith in God through the revelation of His Word so that others may see the hope of eternal redemption.



“I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you.”

Joshua 2:9

Sh'lach L'cha Crossword Puzzle



Across

- [2] Did the people of Jericho want to go to battle?
 [4] The Children of Israel thought it better if they had stayed where?
 [6] Who is our high priest?
 [7] Where did Rahab hide the men?
 [9] What did two spies carry back to the children of Yisra'el on a pole?
 [11] The spies scouted the land for forty ____?
 [12] Who commissioned the two spies that met Rahab?
 [14] How many days were the spies hiding in the mountain after leaving Rahab?
 [16] The name of the city where Rahab lived.
 [17] Caleb son of _____

Down

- [1] Who was anointed by God to take the people out of Egypt?
 [3] How many spies did Moshe send to scout the Promised Land?
 [5] Israel wandered the wilderness forty _____ because of their lack of trust.
 [8] What plant did Rahab hide the 2 spies within ?
 [10] How do you pronounce Rahab in Hebrew?
 [13] What color thread was Rahab to tie to her window?
 [15] The Land flowed with Milk and _____
 [18] Joshua son of ____

Pray First

Father God,
We praise You because You have given us Your Son, Messiah Yeshua as our High Priest. Help us to be a faithful people so that we do not harden our hearts when we hear Your voice. We desire to be a faithful people so that we may serve You.

In Yeshua's name we pray,
Amen

Read: Hebrews 3:7-19

In Hebrews 3:7 -9 the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness, where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, and saw My works forty years." Our Torah portion taught us that the congregation of Yisra'el had their faith challenged when it was time to enter into the Promised Land. When they saw the Land they reacted in fear and rebelled against God. God told them it would be 40 years in the wilderness, before they could enter the Land that God had promised them. The Holy Spirit is reminding us through these Scriptures that we are not to behave as the congregation of Yisra'el did and harden our hearts.

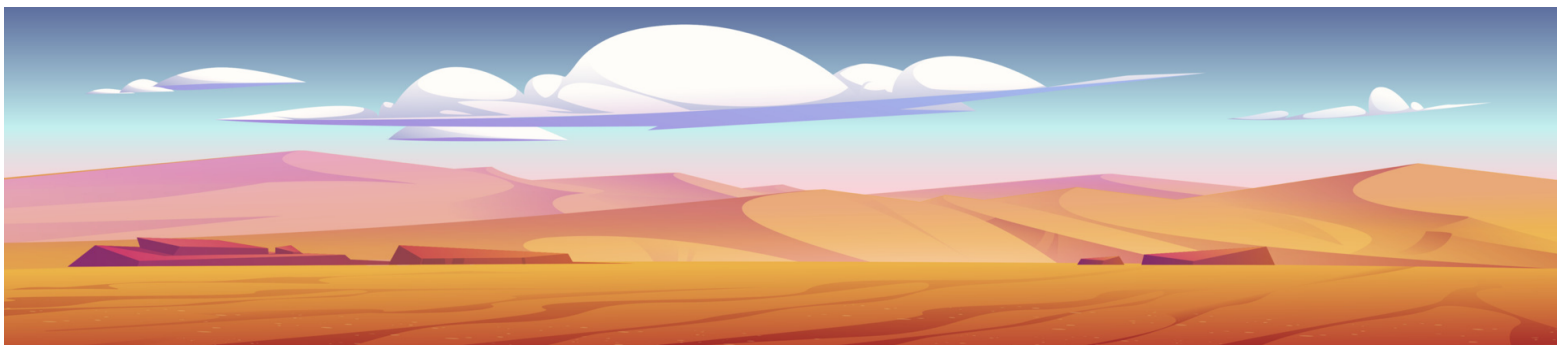
We want to be faithful people, not rebellious people with hardened hearts. Among the congregation of Yisra'el there were rebels with unbelieving hearts. There were many who left Egypt that did not have true faith in the God Who had saved them. They just wanted out of the affliction of Egypt. In Hebrews 3:12, Scripture tells us to beware, "lest there be in any of you with an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God." Within our church congregations today there can be rebels with unbelieving hearts and these Scriptures are

warning us about this fact. Every time we say no to God we harden our hearts. It is when we do not exercise faith, when we do not believe in the Word of God that evil will be the outcome. Hebrews 3:13 commands us to exhort one another daily, lest you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Many have said that they put their trust in Yeshua, but do they have a sincere commitment to God? Do they demonstrate their faith and trust to others? Do you demonstrate your faith and trust in God to others? What is the evidence of that in your life?

Do not harden your hearts
as in the rebellion, in the day
of trial in the wilderness.

Hebrews 3:8



Those who are in a covenant relationship with Messiah Yeshua have the Holy Spirit. He provided the deliverance and the power that we need so that we might obey God. When we are convicted, God is talking to our conscience. When we hear Him and rebel, that demonstrates a lack of faith which produces disobedience.



However, if God convicts us and we hear His voice, and we respond in obedience, we will be demonstrating faithfulness. We are saved by grace. It is a free gift that has nothing to do with how obedient we are in each moment. However, having been saved by grace, faith and trust in God will work in our lives and produce obedience. If there is never any obedience, we are always in disagreement with God. Hebrews 3:18 reminds us that those who did not obey did not enter His rest. Remember this was a large congregation under Moshe's leadership. Yet they did not have a commitment to



where they were going and lacked the faith and trust to obey God. It is through our obedience to God that our faithfulness is demonstrated. Ask yourself: do you have a genuine faith that hears God's voice and trusts in Him? If we do not know Messiah Yeshua, who He is and what He did for us through His death and resurrection on the cross to redeem us from our sins, then we cannot trust Him. If we cannot trust Him then we will not be a faithful people. When you hear God's voice, surrender to Him and do not harden your heart to His voice.

Ask yourself: Do you have a genuine faith that hears God's voice and trusts in Him? Surrender to God, and you will not be disappointed.

Names of the men sent to scout the Promised Land

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Shammua | 7. Gaddiel |
| 2. Shaphat | 8. Gaddi |
| 3. Caleb | 9. Ammiel |
| 4. Igal | 10. Sethur |
| 5. Hoshea | 11. Nahbi |
| 6. Palti | 12. Geuel |



Crossword Puzzle Solution

