
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Num. 13:1-25	Oneman from each of the twelve tribes sent to spy out the land of Kena'an
Tuesday:	Num. 13:26-33	The spies return with a report
Wednesday:	Num. 14	The children of Yisra'el rebel; Mosheh intercedes for the people; Yahweh relents, pronounces judgments
Thursday:	Num. 15:1-31	Instructions for various offerings and unintentional sins
Friday:	Num. 15:32-41	Penalty for violating Shabbat; Torah regarding tzitziyot

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will be following the story of the 12 men that were sent out to spy the land of Kena'an and the 2 very different reports given to Mosheh. Now, let's read Num. 13-14.

PARSHA POINTS

- Yahweh tells Mosheh to send out one (**achat**) man from each tribe of the leaders, to spy out the land of Kena'an - 13:1-2
- Mosheh changes the name of Hoshea (meaning salvation) the son of Nun to Yehoshua (meaning Yahweh is salvation) - 13:16
- Mosheh instructs the men to (13:17-20):
 - go up through the South
 - go up to the mountains
 - see what the land is like
 - see whether the people in it are strong or weak
 - see whether there are many or few people
 - see whether the land they dwell in is good or evil
 - see whether the cities they live in are in camps or strongholds
 - see whether the land is rich or poor
 - see if there are forests or not
 - be strong
 - bring back some of the fruit of the land



- Mosheh sends the men during the season of the first-fruit of grapes - 13:20
- The men travel up through the south and come to Hebron, where they see Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the descendants of Anaq - 13:22
- The men then arrive at a place called the wadi Eshkol, where they cut down one branch bearing a single cluster of grapes (**anavim**) - 13:23
- They carry the giant cluster of grapes on a pole between 2 (**shtayim**) men, and also take some pomegranates and figs - 13:23
- After 40 (**arba'im**) days, the men return from spying out the land - 13:25
- They bring back a report to Mosheh, Aharon and all the congregation of the children of Yisra'el - 13:26
- The men report that the land flows with milk (**chalav**) and honey (**devash**), and show the fruit they have brought - 13:27
- But they add the following negative report (13:28-29):
 - The people who dwell in the land are strong and the cities are walled and very great
 - The descendants of Anaq are there (giants)
 - The Amaleqites live in the land of the South
 - The Hittites, the Yebusites and the Amorites live in the mountains
 - The Kena'anites live by the sea, along the banks of the Yarden (Jordan)
- Kaleb (Caleb, meaning whole-hearted) silences the people and urges Yisra'el to go up at once and take possession of the land, for he is certain that they can overtake it - 13:30
- 10 (**eser**) of the 12 (**shtem esre**) men who had gone with Kaleb oppose him, saying that they are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger (**chazak**) than the Yisra'elites - 3:31
- These men expand on their evil report by saying that the land they have spied out is a land that eats up its inhabitants, and that the men are great in size - 13:32
- They say these men are Nephilim, giant sons of Anaq, and that they were as grasshoppers in their own eyes and also in the eyes of the sons of Anaq - 13:33
- The spies' report causes the children of Yisra'el such fear that they weep all that night - 14:1
- Furthermore, the children of Yisra'el grumble against Mosheh and Aharon, saying that they would have been better off dying in Mitsrayim or in this wilderness - 14:2
- They demand to know why Yahweh would bring them to a land where they would surely fall by the sword, and their wives and children become prey - 14:3
- They reason that it would be better if they went back to Mitsrayim; so they conspire to appoint a leader to take them back there - 14:3-4
- When Mosheh and Aharon hear all this, they fall on their faces before the entire assembly of the children of Yisra'el - 14:5



- Yehoshua son of Nun, of the tribe of Ephrayim, and Kaleb son of Yephunneh, of the tribe of Yehudah, both tear their garments in dismay - 14:6; 13:6, 8



- Yehoshua and Kaleb address the congregation of the children of Yisra'el, saying (14:7-9):

- The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land
- If Yahweh has delighted in us, then He will give us this land that is flowing with milk and honey
- Do NOT rebel against Yahweh
- Do NOT fear the people of the land, for they are our bread
- Yahweh is with us; they have no defense against Him
- Do NOT fear them

- When the children of Yisra'el hear these words, they want to stone Kaleb and Yehoshua - 14:10



- Yahweh's esteem then appears in the Tent of Meeting, in the sight of all the children of Yisra'el - 14:10

- Yahweh expresses to Mosheh his frustration with these people (14:11):

- How long shall I be scorned by these people?
- How long shall I NOT be trusted by them, despite all the signs which I have done in their midst?

- Yahweh makes a new proposal to Mosheh (14:12 and Ex. 34:5-7):

- Let Me strike them with pestilence
- Let Me disinherit them
- Let Me make of you a nation greater and mightier than they

- Mosheh objects, interceding for the people stating that the Mitsrites will (14:13-16):

- hear about this, who saw Your power in delivering Yisra'el from their midst
- report to the inhabitants of this land Your glorious presence with the children of Yisra'el
- say that You were not able to bring them to this land
- say that is why You killed them in the wilderness

- Mosheh then proclaims Yahweh's attributes saying that Yahweh (14:17-19):

- is patient
- is of great kindness/loving-commitment
- forgives crookedness
- forgives transgression
- by no means leaves disobedience unpunished
- visits the crookedness of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation



- Mosheh pleads with Yahweh to forgive the crookedness of the children of Yisra'el, according to His great kindness/loving-commitment, as He has done from the time they left Mitsrayim until now - 14:19
- Yahweh relents and declares that He will forgive them - 14:20
- He reminds Mosheh that He is the living Yahweh, and that He has made known to His people His esteem over all the earth, through His signs in Mitsrayim and in the wilderness - 14:21-22
- He recounts to Mosheh that His people who have now tried Him ten times, disobeying His voice and scorning Him, will now NOT see the land which He swore to their fathers - 14:22-23
- Yahweh states that His servant Kaleb, who has a different spirit from the others and followed Yahweh completely, will get to go into the land, and his offspring shall inherit it - 14:24
- Yahweh directs Mosheh to lead the people away from the land of Kena'an, back into the wilderness by the Way of the Sea of Reeds - 14:25
- Because of their grumbling against Him, Yahweh pronounces punishment upon the children of Yisra'el (14:28-34):
 - As you have spoken in My hearing, so I do to you
 - Those of you who have grumbled against Me will fall in the wilderness: all over the age of 20 (**esrim**) years old who were registered
 - Your little ones, whom you said would be a prey, will get to go into the land which you rejected
 - Your sons shall be wanderers in the wilderness for 40 years, according to the number of days which you spied out the land: a day for a year
 - You are to bear your crookedness, so that you know My breaking away from you
- Yahweh reveals that only Kaleb and Yehoshua will enter the land which He had sworn to give to all Yisra'el - 14:30
- Yahweh concludes with the declaration, "I am Yahweh, I have spoken." - 14:35
- The 10 men who brought back an evil report about the land are punished with a plague and die - 14:37-38
- Of the 12 spies, only Yehoshua and Kaleb are left alive - 14:38
- When they hear of Yahweh's judgments, the children of Yisra'el mourn, acknowledging their sins - 14:39
- The children of Yisra'el try to make amends for their previous unbelief by deciding to go up the mountain, against Yahweh's new instruction - 14:40
- Mosheh warns them not to go up the mountain in transgression of Yahweh's judgment; their plan cannot prosper, for Yahweh is NOT in their midst - 14:41-42
- Mosheh also declares that the Amaleqites and the Kena'anites will slay them with the sword, for they have turned away from Yahweh, and Yahweh is NOT with them - 14:43
- In the face of Mosheh's warning, the people went up the mountaintop anyway, not having Mosheh or the ark of the Witness with them - 14:44
- As Mosheh said, the Amaleqites and the Kena'anites who dwelt on that mountain did come down and strike them, beating them down all the way to Hormah - 14:45



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- Compare the account in Deuteronomy 1:22-23 with the account with Numbers 13:1-3.
- Discuss the parallelism of Yehoshua (Joshua) to Yeshua our Savior.
- Where is the first mention of Nephilim in the Scriptures?
- Examine the actions of the children of Yisra'el just as they were about to inherit the land of Kena'an, and how drastically their story changed as a result of their rebellion toward Yahweh. Do you think they had lack of faith? Do you think that perhaps they got too comfortable with Yahweh providing all their needs in the desert?
- Research where the milk and honey came from, that the land of Kena'an was flowing with.

