

A Legacy of Honor

"History repeats itself . . .

because it is based on two factors which do not change:

God's character and man's sinfulness."

Gordon J. Wenham

"Just as the Israelites were not intended to pass thirty-eight years in

journeying from one place to another in the wilderness, so the Christian is not

expected to have prolonged wilderness experiences through disobedience . . .

The book of Numbers is . . . a warning against indulging in the kind of sin
that brought death to a whole generation of Israelites so long ago."

R.K. Harrison

"(v.1) The **Lord now said to Moses**, (v.2)'Send out men to explore the land of Canaan,
the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve
ancestral tribes.' (v.17) Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out
to explore the land: *'Go north through the Negev into the hill country. (v.18) See what
the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few
or many.'*"

"Forty days later . . .(v.27) This was their report to Moses: 'We entered the land you sent us
to explore, and it is indeed a bountiful country—a land flowing with milk and honey. Here is the kind
of fruit it produces. (v.28) But the people living there are powerful, and their towns are large and
fortified. We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak! (v.29) The Amalekites live in the
Negev, and the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country. The Canaanites live along
the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and along the Jordan Valley.

(v.30) But **Caleb tried** to quiet the people as they stood before Moses. 'Let's go at once to take
the land,' he said. 'We can certainly conquer it.'

(v.31) **But the other men** who had explored the land with him disagreed. 'We can't go up against
them! They are stronger than we are!' (v.32) So they spread this bad report about the land among
the Israelites. 'The land we traveled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live
there. All the people we saw were huge. (v.33) We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak.
Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!'

Numbers 13:1, 2, 17-18, 27-33

New Living Translation

What is happening here? The legacy of ***shame!***

Deliberate acts of ***disobedience!***

Chapter 11, 12, 14, 16-17, 20, 25

Caleb's legacy is **honor!**

obedience!

strength!

Caleb believed God's Word.

Caleb faithfully and **fearlessly** served Moses, his people, and God.

In I Corinthians 10:1-11, the apostle Paul warns us to avoid

idolatry,

immorality,

grumbling,

so that we should not perish as did the Israelites in the wilderness.
God is not pleased with such behavior, and Christ followers should never
put God to the test.

May God liberate us from ever thinking that we are better than others.
May God empower us to live, love, and reach out to others as Christ
did to us on earth!

We celebrate our freedom **today** to share Christ in our homes,
in our church,
in our city,
and in our world!

All glory be to God through Jesus our Redeemer!