

# Deuteronomy 1:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.

## Analysis

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The rhetorical questions—'Whither shall we go up?'—express hopeless despair. The spies' report emphasized obstacles: strong people, fortified cities, giants ('Anakim'). The phrase 'our brethren have discouraged our heart' shows how faithlessness spreads, as fear is contagious. Yet the same facts that paralyzed ten spies energized Joshua and Caleb—the difference wasn't information but faith. What we focus on determines our response.

## Historical Context

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The Anakim were descendants of Anak, known for unusual height and strength, dwelling in fortified hill country cities. Their reputation spread fear throughout Canaan (Joshua 2:11). Yet God had already promised to drive them out (Deuteronomy 9:3), making their size irrelevant to faith.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. What 'giants' in your life seem larger than God's promises?
2. How can you guard against allowing others' fear to discourage your faith?

## Interlinear Text

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אתם סתם אַתֶּן חָנָנוּ אַתָּה יְמָן עַל יְמָן אֲחִינוּנוּ הַמִּסְתָּר  
H575 H587 Whither shall we go up H5927 our brethren H251 have discouraged H4549 H853

לְאַמְּרָה רַבָּבָה כִּי מִקְּרָבָה כִּי גָּדָלָה עַמְּךָ וְאַתָּה  
our heart H3824 saying H559 The people H5971 are great H1419 and taller H7311 H4480 than we the cities H5892

גָּדָלָה וְאַתָּה בְּשָׂמָמָה יְמָן בְּנֵי יְמָן עַתְּלָקָן יְמָן  
are great H1419 and walled up H1219 to heaven H8064 the sons H1571 H1121 of the Anakims H6062

בְּאַיִלָּה שָׁמָן:  
and moreover we have seen H7200 H8033

## Additional Cross-References

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**Joshua 15:14** (Parallel theme): And Caleb drove thence the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

**Joshua 11:22** (Parallel theme): There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained.

**Joshua 14:8** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

**Judges 1:20** (Parallel theme): And they gave Hebron unto Caleb, as Moses said: and he expelled thence the three sons of Anak.

