

Numbers 13:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:

Analysis

Moses sent them specifically 'into the south' (Hebrew 'negeb'), meaning the southern desert region of Canaan. The command to 'go up into the mountain' refers to the central hill country where fortified cities stood. This systematic reconnaissance from south to north would provide comprehensive intelligence for military strategy.

Historical Context

The Negev was the arid southern region of Canaan, less densely populated than the fertile central highlands. The 'mountain' refers to the central ridge running north-south through Canaan's spine, where cities like Hebron and later Jerusalem were located.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God use ordinary means (like reconnaissance) while still requiring faith in His supernatural promises?
2. What is the difference between gathering information and trusting in human wisdom over God's word?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּשְׁלַח	אֹתָם	מֹשֶׁה	לֵתּוֹר	אֶת	אֶרֶץ	כְּנָעַן
sent	H853	And Moses	them to spy out	H853	the land	of Canaan
H7971		H4872	H8446		H776	H3667
וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלָהּ	וַעֲלִיתָ	זֶה	בְּנֵי גֹב	וַעֲלִיתָ	אֶת
and said	H413	and go up	H2088	this way southward	and go up	H853
H559		H5927		H5045	H5927	
הָהָר:						
into the mountain						
H2022						

Additional Cross-References

Judges 1:9 (Parallel theme): And afterward the children of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites, that dwelt in the mountain, and in the south, and in the valley.

Genesis 12:9 (Parallel theme): And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.