

Numbers 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;

Analysis

Moses instructs the spies to observe the land's characteristics, the people's strength and numbers, and the cities' fortifications. This practical assessment would inform military planning, but Israel's success ultimately depended on God, not tactics. The questions 'is it fat or lean?' and 'are there wood therein?' addressed agricultural productivity and natural resources.

Historical Context

Ancient warfare required understanding enemy strength, city defenses (walls, towers), and land productivity for sustaining troops. Walled cities were nearly impregnable without siege equipment, making this intelligence militarily valuable.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. When does prudent planning cross into lack of faith in God's provision?
2. How can you seek wisdom while maintaining that God's promise, not circumstances, determines outcomes?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| וְרָאִיתָ מַה | אֶת הָאֲרָץ | וְהָיָה | וְהָיָה | וְהָיָה | וְהָיָה | וְהָיָה |
| And see | H853 | the land | H4100 | H1931 | H853 | what it is and the people |
| H7200 | | H776 | | | | H5971 |
| הַיֵּשׁ בְּ | עַל יְהוָה | וְהָיָה | וְהָיָה | וְהָיָה | וְהָיָה | וְהָיָה |
| that dwelleth | H5921 | therein whether they be strong | H1931 | | or weak | |
| H3427 | | H2389 | | | H7504 | |
| הַמְּעַט | וְהָיָה | אֲדָמָה | רַב: | | | |
| few | H1931 | H518 | or many | | | |
| H4592 | | | H7227 | | | |

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