

Numbers 13:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds;

Analysis

Moses' question 'whether they be strong or weak, few or many' reveals that proper reconnaissance involves honest assessment of obstacles. Faith is not ignorance of difficulties but trust in God despite them. The spies were to gather accurate intelligence, not determine whether God could fulfill His promise—that was already settled.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern military campaigns regularly sent scouts ahead to assess enemy strength, fortifications, and resources. Moses' instructions followed standard military wisdom while trusting in supernatural intervention, demonstrating that faith complements rather than contradicts prudence.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How can you honestly assess challenges while maintaining unwavering trust in God?
2. Where is the line between wise planning and faithless doubt?

Interlinear Text

וְיָמָּה	הָאֶרֶץ	אֲשֶׁר	הוּא	יֹשֵׁב	בָּהּ	
H4100	And what the land	H834	H1931	is that they dwell in	H0	
	H776			H3427		
הַטּוֹב	וְהָרָע	אִם	הָרָע	וְיָמָּה	הָעָרִים	אֲשֶׁר
whether it be good	H1931	H518	or bad	H4100	and what cities	H834
H2896			H7451		H5892	H1931
יֹשֵׁב	בָּהּ	הַבְּמִחָנִים	אִם	בְּמִבְצָרִים:		
is that they dwell in	in	whether in tents	H518	or in strong holds		
H3427	H2007	H4264		H4013		

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