

Numbers 13:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes.

Analysis

Moses commanded: 'bring of the fruit of the land.' The spies brought a cluster of grapes so large two men carried it on a pole (v.23), plus pomegranates and figs - evidence of Canaan's extraordinary fertility. The Hebrew 'pri' (fruit) demonstrated God's promise wasn't empty - the land truly flowed with milk and honey (v.27). Ironically, the same evidence that should have encouraged faith became ammunition for unbelief ('we be not able,' v.31). This illustrates that facts don't create faith; spiritually blind eyes see obstacles where faith sees opportunity. The fruit testified to God's faithfulness - believing hearts needed no more proof.

Historical Context

The spying occurred during harvest season (time of first-ripe grapes, v.20), showcasing Canaan's bounty. The grape cluster from Eshcol valley became legendary, suggesting supernatural abundance in the Promised Land. While the land's fertility was real (archaeological evidence confirms Canaan's agricultural richness), the spies focused on fortifications and giants rather than God's promise and provision. The fruit should have strengthened faith but instead highlighted the mixed multitude's doubt - they saw blessing but feared the cost of obtaining it. The incident warns that physical evidence without Spirit-given faith produces fear, not confidence.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When you see evidence of God's promises and provision, does it strengthen your faith or increase your fear of obstacles?
2. What 'fruit' is God showing you that should build confidence for the next step of obedience He requires?

Interlinear Text

וְהָאָרֶץ	הֲיֵשׁ	בָּהּ הַ	עֵץ	אִם יֵן	וְהָתְחַזְקֶתָּם
H4100		H0		H518	
And what the land	whether there be		wood		therein or not And be ye of good courage
H776	H3426		H6086	H369	H2388
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
or lean					
H7330					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931		H518		H518	
is whether it be fat					
H8082					
וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ	וְהָאָם	כִּי הַ
H1931					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 31:23 (Good): And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I sware unto them: and I will be with thee.

Nehemiah 9:35 (Good): For they have not served thee in their kingdom, and in thy great goodness that thou gavest them, and in the large and fat land which thou gavest before them, neither turned they from their wicked works.

Nehemiah 9:25 (Good): And they took strong cities, and a fat land, and possessed houses full of all goods, wells digged, vineyards, and oliveyards, and fruit trees in abundance: so they did eat, and were filled, and became fat, and delighted themselves in thy great goodness.

Ezekiel 34:14 (Good): I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org