

Numbers 13:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

Analysis

The forty-day reconnaissance mission coincided with first-ripe grapes, indicating late summer (July-August). This timing allowed the spies to witness Canaan's agricultural abundance at peak productivity. The number forty often appears in Scripture as a period of testing and probation (Noah's flood, Moses' mountain sojourn, Jesus' temptation).

Historical Context

Forty days provided sufficient time to travel from Israel's encampment at Kadesh-barnea northward through Canaan and return with a thorough report. The timing during harvest season showcased the land's fertility God promised.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do testing periods in your life reveal what's truly in your heart?
2. What does it mean to you that God often uses extended periods to test and refine faith?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּשׁוּ בוֹ	מִתּוֹר	הָאָרֶץ	מִקֵּץ	אַרְבָּעַ יָמִים	יָמִים:
And they returned	from searching	of the land	after	forty	days
H7725	H8446	H776	H7093	H705	H3117

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 34:28 (Parallel theme): And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

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