

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

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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

וּמָתְבֵּחַ בָּאָזְנָבָן
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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