

Numbers 13:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

Analysis

The spies' report begins accurately: the land does flow with milk and honey, confirmed by the fruit as evidence. They acknowledge God's promise was true regarding the land's abundance. Yet their subsequent 'nevertheless' (verse 28) reveals how faith and fear can coexist, with fear ultimately dominating ten spies' perspective.

Historical Context

'Milk and honey' was a standard ancient Near Eastern phrase indicating agricultural fertility. Milk came from flocks grazing on plentiful pastures, while honey (possibly bee honey or date syrup) indicated fruit abundance.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can you acknowledge God's faithfulness while still being paralyzed by fear of obstacles?

2. What 'nevertheless' in your thinking diminish confidence in God's promises?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	וְאֵלֶּךְ	בְּאָנֹכִי	אֶל	בְּאַתְּ	בְּאֶרְצָה	אֲשֶׁר
And they told	H0	him and said	H413	We came	H776	unto the land
H5608		H559		H935		H834
שְׁלַחְתָּנוּ	בְּתַתְּ	גַם	בְּלִבְנָה	שְׁלַחְתָּנוּ	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה
whither thou sentest	H1571	us and surely it floweth	H2461	with milk	H1706	and honey
H7971		H2100				H1931
וְזֹאת	פְּרִיָּה					
H2088	and this is the fruit	H6529				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:8 (Parallel theme): And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Exodus 3:17 (Parallel theme): And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

Exodus 13:5 (Parallel theme): And it shall be when the LORD shall bring thee into the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee, a land flowing with milk and honey, that thou shalt keep this service in this month.

Exodus 33:3 (Parallel theme): Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

Deuteronomy 31:20 (Parallel theme): For when I shall have brought them into the land which I sware unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.

Deuteronomy 27:3 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt write upon them all the words of this law, when thou art passed over, that thou mayest go in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, a land that floweth with milk and honey; as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee.

Deuteronomy 11:9 (Parallel theme): And that ye may prolong your days in the land, which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give unto them and to their seed, a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 26:9 (Parallel theme): And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey.

Deuteronomy 6:3 (Parallel theme): Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Numbers 14:8 (Parallel theme): If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.