

Numbers 13:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

Analysis

The 'nevertheless' introduces the fatal objection: the people are strong and the cities fortified. The conjunction contrasts Canaan's goodness with its perceived impregnability. That the people 'be strong' and cities 'walled, and very great' was true, but irrelevant in light of God's promise. They saw giants; they should have remembered God parting the Red Sea.

Historical Context

Canaanite cities were indeed fortified with impressive stone walls, towers, and gates. Archaeological excavations at sites like Megiddo and Hazor reveal substantial Iron Age fortifications that would have daunted any ancient army.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What obstacles in your life seem insurmountable when you forget God's past faithfulness?
2. How does focusing on problems rather than God's promises paralyze obedience?

Interlinear Text

אָפֶס Nevertheless H657	כִּי H3588	עַז be strong H5794	הָעָם the people H5971	הַיֹּשֵׁב that dwell H3427	בְּאֶרֶץ in the land H776	וּבְעָרֵיהֶם and the cities H5892
וְהָיָה are walled H1219	גְּדֹלָת great H1419	מְאֹד and very H3966	וְגַם H1571	וְלִדְיָה the children H3211	וְהָיָה of Anak H6061	וְכֵן and moreover we saw H7200
שָׁמָּה H8033						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:28 (Parallel theme): Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, The people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there.

Joshua 11:22 (Parallel theme): There was none of the Anakims left in the land of the children of Israel: only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod, there remained.

Numbers 13:33 (Parallel theme): And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Deuteronomy 2:21 (Parallel theme): A people great, and many, and tall, as the Anakims; but the LORD destroyed them before them; and they succeeded them, and dwelt in their stead:

Deuteronomy 3:5 (Parallel theme): All these cities were fenced with high walls, gates, and bars; beside unwalled towns a great many.

Joshua 15:14 (Parallel theme): And Caleb drove thence the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmai, the children of Anak.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org