

# Numbers 13:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

## Analysis

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The ten faithless spies directly contradicted Caleb: 'We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.' Their assessment was purely human calculation, ignoring God's presence and power. The comparison 'stronger than we' reveals their self-reliance—they measured Canaanite strength against their own rather than against God's omnipotence.

## Historical Context

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This fearful majority report triggered the rebellion of Numbers 14, resulting in forty years of wilderness wandering. Only Caleb and Joshua of this generation would enter Canaan, while the faithless perished in the desert.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How often do you compare your strength to problems rather than remembering God's power?

2. What happens when you calculate obedience based on your abilities instead of God's promises?

## Interlinear Text

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נִכְלַל אָמַר וְאַנְשֵׁי יִם  
that went up with him said  
H376 H834 H5973 H559 H3808 H3201

מִתְּפָאֵל הַיְאֵל לְעַל וְתַּחַת  
that went up against the people for they are stronger  
H5927 H413 H5971 H3588 H2389 H1931 H4480

## Additional Cross-References

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**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 14:8** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

**Hebrews 3:19** (Parallel theme): So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

**Numbers 32:9** (Parallel theme): For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them.

**Deuteronomy 9:1** (Parallel theme): Hear, O Israel: Thou art to pass over Jordan this day, to go in to possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven,