

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

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

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

וְהָאָנָשׁ יָמִים	אֲשֶׁר	לָעָלָה וְתָ	עִמּוֹ	אָמַר וְ	לֹא	נֹכַח לְ
H376	H834	that went up H5927	H5973	with him said H559	H3808	We be not able H3201
לָעָלָה וְתָ	אֶל	הָעָם	כִּי	חֲזָקִים	הֵם וְאֵל	מִמֶּנּוּ:
that went up H5927	H413	against the people H5971	H3588	for they are stronger H2389	H1931	H4480

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 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,