

# Numbers 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh,  
which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

## Analysis

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Joshua and Caleb's tearing of garments expressed grief over the people's unbelief and the impending judgment it would bring. This traditional sign of mourning demonstrated that they understood what was at stake—not merely a military campaign but the nation's covenant relationship with God. Their anguish revealed hearts aligned with God's purposes rather than popular opinion.

## Historical Context

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Rending garments was a standard expression of grief in ancient Israel, particularly in response to blasphemy or covenant violation (Genesis 37:29, 2 Kings 18:37). Joshua and Caleb recognized that rejecting God's promise constituted covenant breaking deserving such dramatic response.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. What grieves you about the unbelief you observe in God's people today?
2. How do you respond when you stand in a minority that trusts God's promises?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיֵהוֹשֻׁעַ	בֶּן	נֹחַ	וְכָלֵב	בֶּן	יִפְנֵה	מִן
And Joshua	the son	of Nun	and Caleb	the son	of Jephunneh	H4480
H3091	H1121	H5126	H3612	H1121	H3312	
הַתֵּרִים			אֶת	הָאֲרֶץ	וְקָרַע	בְּגֵדֵיהֶם:
which were of them that searched			H853	the land	rent	their clothes
H8446				H776	H7167	H899

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 14:30** (Parallel theme): Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

**Numbers 13:30** (Parallel theme): And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

**Genesis 37:34** (Parallel theme): And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

**Genesis 37:29** (Parallel theme): And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

**Numbers 14:38** (Parallel theme): But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, lived still.

**Numbers 13:8** (Parallel theme): Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun.

**Numbers 13:6** (Parallel theme): Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.