

# Lesson 2: Kadesh Barnea

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## Central Point: Believe the report of God's Word

The place is Kadesh Barnea on the outskirts of the Promised Land; at last the people of Israel are on the verge of entering into their land flowing with milk and honey. This is the same land that God had promised Abraham for his decedents to inherit- Hebrews 11:8-10.

### Preparation Time

- **Please Read: Deuteronomy 1:21-25**
- Initially Moses told the people to just go straight on in and take possession of the land
- But it was the people's idea to first send a few men in to spy out the land
- **Question:** "Hind sight, would it have been better if they had just charged right in?"
- It seemed reasonable to spy out the land, to be cautious and careful- don't be hasty
- In Israel's case the thing to do here was instant obedience and jump in by faith
- Hesitating when God says go, opens the door to talk ourselves out of the will of God

The Gospel "Good News" message given to Israel while they were in bondage in Egypt was deliverance from slavery and a new home in the Promise Land. We know in Romans 10:17 that faith comes by continually hearing the Word- not having heard in the past or once in a while.

- Moses heard this Gospel from God when he was called to lead Israel out- to preach it
- After the Passover took place, they embarked on a journey to the Promise Land
- **Please Read: Exodus 3:7-10, 16-17; 13:3-5**
- The people of Israel should have been prepared for the challenges of Canaan
  - o Miracles in Egypt, parting of the Red Sea, water from the rock and manna
  - o The pillar of fire by night and cloud by day and Mount Sinai –giving of the law

### Two Reports

So after 40 days, the twelve spies returned and freely acknowledged that the land was everything it was said it would be, a land flowing with milk and honey- **BUT!!!**

- **Please Read: Numbers 13:17-29**
- Faith does not deny the facts, what the 12 spies saw was real and very threatening
- **Please Read: Romans 4:17-22**
- Israel had the revelation of Abraham who took God at His word and obeyed
- **Question:** "What is the difference between 'Facts' and 'Truths' in this life?"
- Facts are subject to change but the truth of God's Word endures forever- Mark 13:31
- Faith does not deny facts, it trusts in God's power to overcome the circumstances of life

The mere observations of the 10 spies was correct, it was the conclusion they came to that was wrong. There's a big difference between truth and fact, it was a fact that the people of the land were great/powerful, but the truth was God had already delivered them into their hands.

- In Mark 9:23, Jesus declared that all things are possible to them who believe
  - o Because with God, all things are possible- Mark 10:27
- **Please Read: Numbers 13:30** Notice what Caleb said... a report full of faith in God
- **Question:** "What's the difference in tone - Caleb versus the 10 spies as they speak?"
- The 10 spies sound like despair and whining; Caleb was full of boldness and courage
- **Please Read: Exodus 23:23, 27-31** Caleb remembered these truths!
- Jesus made it clear, what's in our heart will come out of our mouths- Matthew 12:34-35
- **Please Read: Isaiah 53:1; John 12:36-38; Romans 10:16-17**

When we put our faith in the report of God's Word, the power of God is revealed on our behalf. However, if we allow fear to take hold, the circumstances of life- we will lose.

- **Please Read: Numbers 13:31-33**
- The ten spies "Spread" a bad or evil report amongst the people- calling God a liar!
  - o A plague of doubt, fear and unbelief, contrary to God's Word- that's why it's evil
- The majority chose to walk by sight instead of by faith- perception became their reality
- **Please Read: Numbers 14:1-4**
- How pathetic, after all that God had done for them up to this point
- However, we too can find ourselves in the same mire of self-pity despair today
- How frustrating, it was God's perfect will for them to enter in, to be so close and fail
- **Please Read: Numbers 14:5-12**

It was not without reason that Moses and Aaron fell face down in front of the whole assembly. Numbers 14:13-38 is a record of the consequences for their unbelief- out of their own mouths.

- **Please Read: Hebrews 3:7-19**
- **Question:** "Why were the children of Israel unable to enter the Promise Land?"
- Unbelief, is a hardness of heart- a stubborn refusal to believe the plain and obvious
- Doubt is being double minded or unsure; unbelief is a rebellious rejection of truth
- **Please Read: Hebrews 4:1-11**
- Israel had the gospel of the Promise Land preached to them but they did not believe it
- I believe Caleb and Joshua confessed it, talked it up and meditated on it all the time
- Abraham's name, "Father of many nations" matched the promise he heard over again
- **Please Read: Deuteronomy 1:26-46** Perfectly wraps up this story!