

Numbers 13:1-33 Israel's Faith is Tested

Faith in God in its simplest form is believing what YeHoVaH says. The Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Israel demonstrated faith in YeHoVaH by obeying YeHoVaH when He spoke to them.

The testing of our faith proves to us if we believe YeHoVaH. Israel's faith was tested on several occasions to show them what was in their hearts.

Nu 13:1 And YeHoVaH spake unto Moses, saying,

YeHoVaH spoke. Moses wrote.

What we have here, written by Moses, are the words YeHoVaH spoke from His mouth.

Nu 13:2 Send thou men, that they may **search** the land of Canaan, **which I give unto the children of Israel**: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.

Why?

YeHoVaH sent them to search the land to show them that it was a good land as He had promised them. YeHoVaH had told Moses who the people were that lived in the land that He was going to give Israel.

Ex 3:8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Search – **08446** תוּר tuwr {toor}

Meaning: 1) to seek, search out, spy out, explore 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to seek out, select, find out how to do something 1a2) to spy out, explore 1a2a) explorers, spies (participle) 1a3) to go about 1a3a) merchant, trader (participle) 1b) (Hiphil) to make a search, make a reconnaissance

Usage: AV - search 11, search out 3, spy out 2, seek 2, chapmen + 0582 1, descry 1, espied 1, excellent 1, merchantmen + 0582 1; 23

Nu 13:3 And Moses by the commandment of YeHoVaH sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men *were* heads of the children of Israel.

Moses sent out the twelve; one man from each of the 12 tribes, with the exception of the tribes of Levi and Joseph. Joseph's tribe is identified as Manasseh in Verse 11.

Nu 13:4 And these *were* their names: of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur.

Nu 13:5 Of the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori.

Nu 13:6 Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh.

Nu 13:7 Of the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph.

Nu 13:8 **Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun.**

Nu 13:9 Of the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu.

Nu 13:10 Of the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi.

Nu 13:11 Of the tribe of Joseph, *namely*, of the **tribe of Manasseh**, Gaddi the son of Susi.

Nu 13:12 Of the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli.

Nu 13:13 Of the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael.

Nu 13:14 Of the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi.

Nu 13:15 Of the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi.

Nu 13:16 These *are* the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called **Oshea** the son of Nun **Jehoshua**.

Joshua is called by four names in the Old Testament:

1. Oshea
2. Jehoshua
3. Joshua
4. Jeshua

Oshea – **01954** וְשׁוּעָה Howshea` {ho-shay'-ah}

Meaning: Hosea or Hoshea or Oshea = "salvation" 1) family name of Joshua, the son of Nun 2) the 19th and last king of the northern kingdom of Israel 3) son of Beerī, and the first of the minor prophets; prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel in the reign of Jeroboam II 4) a son of Azaziah, a chief of Ephraim in the time of David 5) an Israelite chief who sealed the covenant with Nehemiah

Usage: AV - Hoshea 11, Hosea 3, Oshea 3;

Hoshea – **01954** וְשׁוּעָה Howshea` {ho-shay'-ah}

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Usage: AV - Hoshea 11, Hosea 3, Oshea 3;

Dt 32:44 And Moses came and spake all the words of this song in the ears of the people, he, and Hoshea the son of Nun.

What we have been calling the Book of **Hosea** is actually pronounced **01954** וְשׁוּעָה Howshea` {ho-shay'-ah}.

Jehoshua – **03091** יְהוֹשׁוּעָה Yehowshuwa` {yeh-ho-shoo'-ah} or יְהוֹשׁוּעָה Yehowshu`a {yeh-ho-shoo'-ah}

Meaning: Joshua or Jehoshua = "Jehovah is salvation" n pr m 1) son of Nun of the tribe of Ephraim and successor to Moses as the leader of the children of Israel; led the conquest of Canaan 2) a resident of Beth-shemesh on whose land the Ark of the Covenant came to a stop after the Philistines returned it 3) son of Jehozadak and high priest after the restoration 4) governor of Jerusalem under king Josiah who gave his name to a gate of the city of Jerusalem

Usage: AV - Joshua 218; 218

Joshua – **03091** יְהוֹשׁוּעָה Yehowshuwa` {yeh-ho-shoo'-ah} or יְהוֹשׁוּעָה Yehowshu`a {yeh-ho-shoo'-ah}

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Usage: AV - Joshua 218; 218

Ex 17:9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

Nehemiah called Joshua, Jeshua.

Ne 8:17 And all the congregation of them that were come again out of the captivity made booths, and sat under the booths: for since the days of **Jeshua the son of Nun** unto that day had not the children of Israel done so. And there was very great gladness.

Jeshua – 03442 יֵשׁוּעַ Yeshuwa` {yay-shoo'-ah}

Meaning: Jeshua = "he is saved" n pr m 1) son of Nun of the tribe of Ephraim and successor to Moses as the leader of the children of Israel; led the conquest of Canaan 2) son of Jehozadak and high priest after the restoration 3) a priest in the time of David who had charge of the 9th course 4) a Levite in the reign of Hezekiah 5) head of a Levitical house which returned from captivity in Babylon 6) father of a builder of the wall.

Nu 13:17 And Moses sent them to **spy** out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain:

YeHoVaH instructed him to search the land.

Spy is the same Hebrew word for search.

Spy – **08446** תוֹר tuwr {toor}

Meaning: 1) to seek, search out, spy out, explore 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to seek out, select, find out how to do something 1a2) to spy out, explore 1a2a) explorers, spies (participle) 1a3) to go about 1a3a) merchant, trader (participle) 1b) (Hiphil) to make a search, make a reconnaissance

Usage: AV - search 11, search out 3, spy out 2, seek 2, chapmen + 0582 1, descry 1, espied 1, excellent 1, merchantmen + 0582 1; 23

The details of Moses' instructions cause me to wonder if the instructions he gave were given to him by YeHoVaH, or if they were from Moses. Why?

- What difference did it make if the people were weak or strong, few or many?
- YeHoVaH said the land was a good land, so why do they need to see if the land was good or bad?

Nu 13:18 And see the land, what it *is*; and the people that dwelleth therein, whether they *be* strong or weak, few or many;

Nu 13:19 And what the land *is* that they dwell in, whether it *be* good or bad; and what cities *they be* that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds;

Nu 13:20 And what the land *is*, whether it *be* fat or lean, whether there *be* wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time *was* the time of the firstripe grapes.

Moses did instruct the 12 men to be strong.

Courage – **02388** כָּזַח chazaq {khaw-zak'}

Meaning: 1) to strengthen, prevail, harden, be strong, become strong, be courageous, be firm, grow firm, be resolute, be sore 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to be strong, grow strong 1a1a) to prevail, prevail upon 1a1b) to be firm, be caught fast, be secure 1a1c) to press, be urgent 1a1d) to grow stout, grow rigid, grow hard (bad sense) 1a1e) to be severe, be grievous 1a2) to

strengthen 1b) (Piel) 1b1) to make strong 1b2) to restore to strength, give strength 1b3) to strengthen, sustain, encourage 1b4) to make strong, make bold, encourage 1b5) to make firm 1b6) to make rigid, make hard 1c) (Hiphil) 1c1) to make strong, strengthen 1c2) to make firm 1c3) to display strength 1c4) to make severe 1c5) to support 1c6) to repair 1c7) to prevail, prevail upon 1c8) to have or take or keep hold of, retain, hold up, sustain, support 1c9) to hold, contain 1d) (Hithpael) 1d1) to strengthen oneself 1d2) to put forth strength, use one's strength 1d3) to withstand 1d4) to hold strongly with

Usage: AV - **strong 48**, repair 47, hold 37, strengthened 28, strengthen 14, harden 13, prevail 10, encourage 9, take 9, courage 8, caught 5, stronger 5, hold 5, misc 52; 290

Firstripe – **01061** בִּיקוּרֵי {bik-koor'}

Meaning: 1) first-fruits 1a) the first of the crops and fruit that ripened, was gathered, and offered to God according to the ritual of Pentecost 1b) the bread made of the new grain offered at Pentecost 1c) the day of the first-fruits (Pentecost)

Usage: AV - firstfruit 14, firstripe 2, firstripe figs 1, hasty fruit 1; 18

Nu 13:21 So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Zin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath.

Rehob is in the Galilee.



Nu 13:22 And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the children of Anak, were. (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

Abraham buried Sarah in Hebron.

Ge 23:19 And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah before Mamre: the same [is] Hebron in the land of Canaan.

Nu 13:23 And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and *they brought* of the pomegranates, and of the figs.

Nu 13:24 The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence.

Zoan is where Moses met with Pharaoh.

Ps 78:12 Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, [in] the field of Zoan.

Nu 13:23 And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and *they brought* of the pomegranates, and of the figs.

Nu 13:24 The place was called the brook Eshcol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence.

The report was as YeHoVaH had told them; the Land of Promise was a good land flowing with milk and honey.

Nu 13:25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

Nu 13:26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and **to all the congregation of the children of Israel**, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto **all the congregation**, and showed them the fruit of the land.

Moses gave them the instructions. However, instead of presenting their report only to Moses, they were allowed to present their report in front of the whole congregation. Imagine if this was done only in the presence of Moses, instead of in front of the whole congregation.

Nu 13:27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it.

What the Word of YeHoVaH says is true.

“BUT” or “NEVERTHELESS”

What they saw with their eyes affected their faith in YeHoVaH.

Nu 13:28 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.

Nu 13:29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

Caleb saw where the conversation was going and stopped it, reiterating faith.

Nu 13:30 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.

The others said we can't because ...

Nu 13:31 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.

Nu 13:32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.

Evil report - **01681** דִּבְבַח־רָע dibbah {dib-baw'}

Meaning: 1) whispering, defamation, evil report 1a) whispering 1b) defamation, defaming 1c) evil report, unfavourable saying

Usage: AV - evil report 3, slander 3, infamy 2, slander 1; 9

Nu 13:32 ... that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.

Nu 13:33 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.

The ten revealed how they saw themselves, but how would they know how the people of the land saw them? Did the people tell them this, or was this their imagination?

Did the ten project how they saw themselves onto the people of the land and conclude that the people of the land saw them the same way as they saw themselves?

- Did they forget Who fought for them?
- Did they forget what YeHoVaH did to the Egyptians and the army of Pharaoh?
- Were they operating in their Egyptian slave mindset?
- What they saw would make them want to turn back or backslide.

- Our faith is tested every Sabbath.
- Our faith is tested every Feast Day.
- Our faith is tested with the Tithe, Firstfruits, and Offerings.