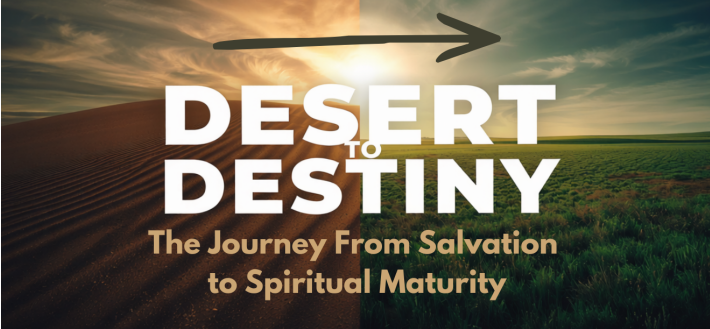




DESERT to DESTINY

The Journey From Salvation
to Spiritual Maturity

Overcoming Giants Numbers 13-14

Trusting God at the Edge of the Promise

Big Idea: Fear of the “giants” [in our lives] keep us from experiencing God's best.

A giant is anything that looks bigger than God and tempts us to believe that His promises are impossible.

I. Fear Sees the Obstacle [Numbers 13:25-33]

Application: A life not lived in fear doesn't pretend obstacles aren't real. It refuses to let obstacles become bigger than God's promises.

II. Fear Spreads - Faith Strengthens [Numbers 14:1-10]

Application: A life not lived in fear becomes a source of courage for others.

III. Faith Moves Forward — Fear Turns Back [Numbers 14:11-24]

To rest means entering into and trusting in God's completed work and promises rather than continuing in unbelief and self-reliance.

Application: We need to work on our responses to the giants in our lives

Question, Reading, Challenge, and Prayer

Question: Read Numbers 13–14 and pay attention to the different responses of the ten spies compared with Joshua and Caleb. Ask yourself: Am I allowing fear to magnify my obstacles, or am I trusting God's promises?

Reading: As you prepare for next week's message, read Numbers 13–14. Observe how fear and unbelief kept Israel from entering the Promised Land, and consider how faith overcomes obstacles that seem impossible.

Challenge: Identify one “giant” you have been allowing fear to control, and this week take one specific step of obedient faith, reminding yourself: “The giant may be great, but my God is greater.”

Prayer: Ask God to help you see your obstacles through the lens of His character, promises, and presence, and to give you the courage to take your next step of faith.

[Numbers 13:25-33] At the end of forty days they returned from spying out the land. ²⁶ And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. [20:1, 16, 32:8, 33:36, Deuteronomy 1:19, Joshua 14:6-7] They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ And they told him, “We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, [Exodus 3:8] and this is its fruit. [Deuteronomy 1:25] ²⁸ However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. [Deuteronomy 1:28, 9:1-2] ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. [14:43, Exodus 17:8] And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.” [14:25]

³⁰ But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it.” [14:6, 24] ³¹ Then the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.” [32:9, Deuteronomy 1:28, Joshua 14:8]

³² So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, “The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, [14:36-37] and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. [Amos 2:9] ³³ And there we saw the Nephilim [Genesis 6:4] (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them.” [Isaiah 40:22]

[2 Timothy 1:7] For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

[Hebrews 3:12-19] Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

[Hebrews 4:8-11] For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. ¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.