**Week of Sept 22, 2019**

**Numbers 13:1-2, 17A, 25-28a; 14:1-2, 5-10a**

**Key Verse:** “If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land flowing with milk and honey and will give it to us.” (Numbers 14:8)

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 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, everyone a ruler among them.

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:

25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days. 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 shewed them the fruit of the land. 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. 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.

1 And all the congregation lifted their voice and cried; and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. 6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: 7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. 8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. 9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. 10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

**Understanding the Scriptures**

In today’s scripture passage, God wanted to give the Israelites a new land – Canaan. The land that God wanted to the people is often referred to as the Promise land. God instructed Moses to send spies to Canaan to learn about the land and the people who were currently living there. Moses sent twelve spies, one spy from each of the Israelite tribes. The spies were to go from northward through the Negev into the hill country. Moses decided what information was important to know before the people could enter Canaan. Moses expected the spies to be able to answer the following questions:1) How are the people? Are they weak, few, or many? 2) What kind of land do they live in? is it good or bad? 3) What kind of towns do they live in? Are they walled or fortified? 4) How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? 5) Are there trees on the land? The answers to these questions would help Moses and the people determine potential challenges and the quality of life they were likely to have in the new land.

The spies returned from Canaan and affirmed that the land was indeed flowing with milk and honey. The land flowing with milk and honey is a way of describing the rich fertility of the Promised Land. The expression described the same land and only tow spies, Joshua and Caleb, believed the people of Israel could actually conquer. Joshua and Caleb encouraged the people o act on God’s promise and move ahead into the land. The other spies were very negative, and they influenced the people to reject God’s promise and Joshua and Caleb’s advice. Once again, the people rose up and blamed Moses and Aaron for leading them to a place that appeared to be a death trap. Moses and Aaron expressed their displeasure by falling on their faces before the people. Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes, which was an act of morning, to show their disappointment in the people’s rebellion.

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