

Shelach Lecha- Sent Forth to take the land:

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Parashat Shelach Lekha: *Sent Forth to take the Land*



Bemidbar [Numbers] 13:1-15:41
Bedmidbar [Numbers] 13:1-3 16-33 14:1-10

Netzarim-Antoecie NAZARENES OF AUSTRALIA Mosheh Sends the Ten Spies

Bemidbar [Numbers] 13: 1-33 And יהוה spoke to Mosheh, saying, **2** "Send men to spy out the land of Kena'an, which I am giving to the children of Yisra'el. Send one man from each tribe of their fathers, everyone a leader among them." **3** And by the command of יהוה Mosheh sent them from the Wilderness of Paran, all of them men who were heads of the children of Yisra'el.

16 These are the men whom Mosheh sent to spy out the land. And Mosheh called Hoshēa the son of Nun, Yahusha [Yehoshua]. **17** And Mosheh sent them to spy out the land of Kena'an and said to them, "Go up here into the South and go up to the mountains, **18** and see what the land is like and the people who dwell in it, whether strong or weak, whether few or many, **19** and whether the land they dwell in is good or evil, whether the cities they inhabit are in camps or strongholds, **20** and whether the land is rich or poor and whether there are forests there or not. And you shall strengthen yourself and bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was the season of the first-fruits of grapes [the Fall]. **21** So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Tsin as far as Rechob, near the entrance of Chamath. **22** And they went up through the South and came to Chebron. And Achiman, Shēshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anaq, were there. Now Chebron had been built seven years before Tso'an in Mitsrayim.

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The Spies Bring Back A Report Of Kenaan

23 And they came to the valley of Eshkol and cut down from there a branch with one cluster of grapes. And they bore it between two of them on a pole, also of the pomegranates and of the figs. 24 That place was called the valley of Eshkol, because of the cluster which the men of Yisra'el cut down from there. 25 And they returned from spying out the land after forty days. 26 And they went and came to Mosheh and Aharon and all the congregation of the children of Yisra'el in the Wilderness of Paran, at Qaḏēsh. And they brought back word to them and to all the congregation and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 And they reported to him and said, "We went to the land where you sent us. And truly, it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 "But the people who dwell in the land are strong and the cities are walled & very large. And we saw the descendants of Anaq there too. 29 "The Amalēqites dwell in the land of the South [the Negev], while the Chittites and the Yebusites and the Amorites dwell in the mountains. And the Kena'anites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Yardēn." 30 And Kalēḅ silenced the people before Mosheh and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are certainly able to overcome it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than us."

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The Congregation Rebels Against Mosheh & YHWH

33 "And we saw there the Nephilim, sons of Anaq, of the Nephilim. And we were like grasshoppers in our own eyes and so we were in their eyes."
Bemidbar [Numbers] 14: 1 Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried and the people wept that night. 2 And all the children of Yisra'el grumbled against Mosheh and against Aharon and all the congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Mitsrayim [Egypt]! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! 3 "And why is יהוה bringing us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become a prey? Would it not be better for us to turn back to Mitsrayim?" 4 And they said to each other, "Let us appoint a leader and let us turn back to Mitsrayim." 5 Then Mosheh and Aharon fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Yisra'el. 6 And Yahusha [Yehoshua] son of Nun and Kalēḅ son of Yephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their garments, 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Yisra'el, saying, "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 "If יהוה has delighted in us, then He shall bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which is flowing with milk and honey.' 9 "Only, do not rebel against יהוה, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread. Their protection has turned away from them and יהוה is with us. Do not fear them." 10 But all the congregation said to stone them with stones.

Torah: B'midbar [Numbers] 13:1- 15:41 **Haftarah:** Yehoshua [Joshua] 2:1-22

Netzarin Ketuvim: Ivri'im [Hebrews] 3:7- 4:1

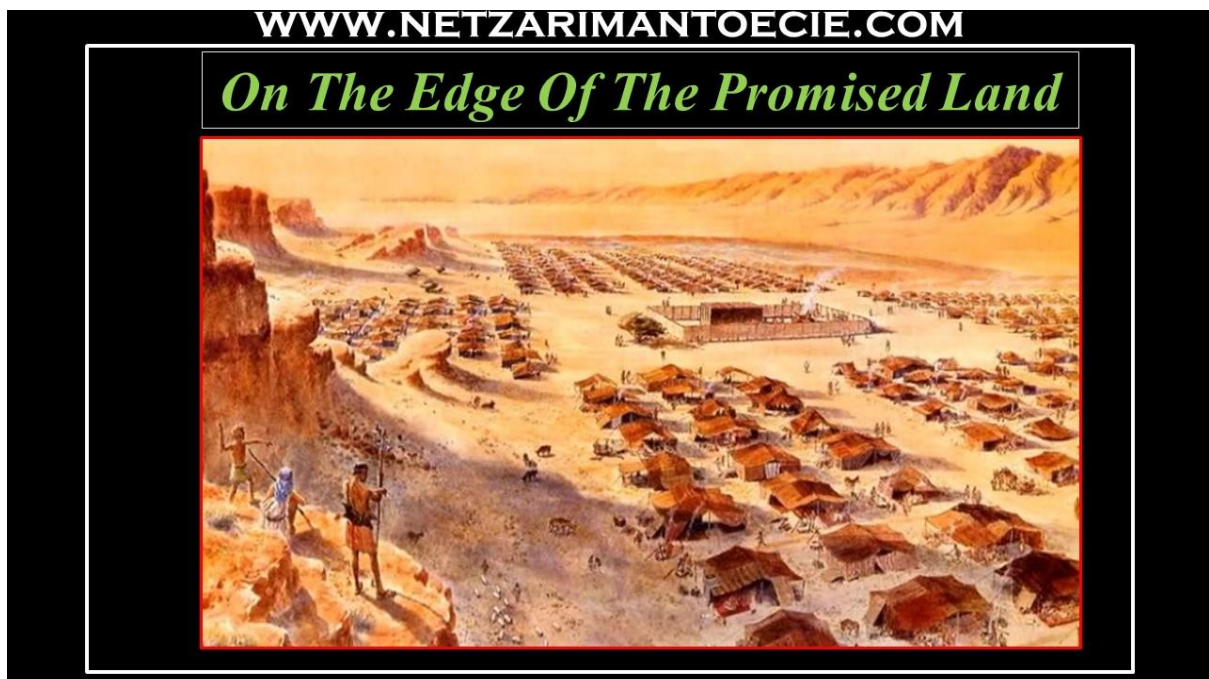
Introduction: In our Reading for this week, we see just how easy it was, for the spies to lose faith in the mighty Elohim who delivered Yisrael from Mitsrayim [Egypt]. It is with a promise of delivering the land to Yisrael that goes all the way back to Abraham that these spies enter the promised land and are tested by YHWH. This too is a challenge for us who know the Master and are also sent out into the world to proclaim his word. Do we believe in his promised presence in the face of the resistance that we might face in a World totally opposed to everything that is of Elohim? This is the challenge that we will see today.

Let us first then observe the events in our story:

Summary of Our Torah Portion:

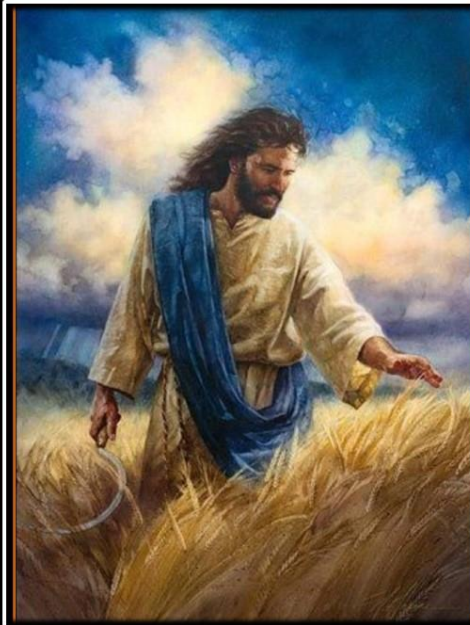
1. Elohim allows spies to be sent to survey the promised land, one leader from each tribe.
2. The spies return after 40 days with produce & with an ominous report except for Joshua & Calev.
3. The people decided to stone them with YHWH informing Mosheh He will wipe the people out, but Mosheh intercedes.
4. YHWH now details his punishment which is that they will wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all males over 20 die except Joshua & Calev.
5. A group of Yisraelites then attempt to enter the land but are driven back because YHWH was not with them.
6. Finally, a man is found desecrating the Shabbat and is stoned outside the camp.

On the edge of their Promised Land:



This week's Torah portion is about the sending out of the twelve spies to survey the land & bring some of its fruit back. I hope we can see how this going out so beautifully connects with the **Brit Chadashah** [New Testament] when we read of Yeshua sending out his disciples too.

Just as we read the promised land was bountiful since it was the season of the first grapes possibly about August as it was a time of harvest which beautifully connects with this verse from **Yeshua**:

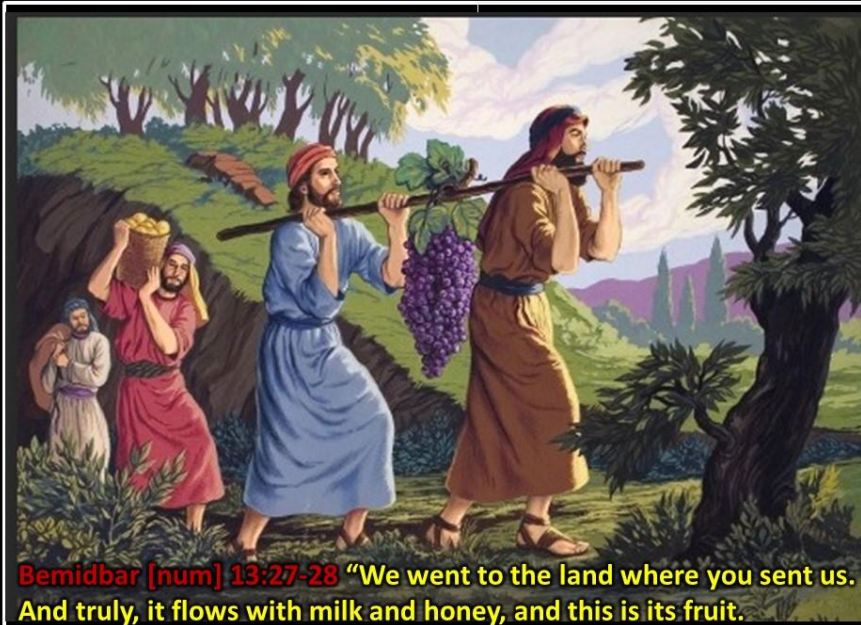


The Fields Are White For Harvest

Yahuchanan [John] 4:35 Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

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After 40 days the Spies returned with great samples of grape clusters so massive it was carried on poles & with pomegranates and figs since we read this in:

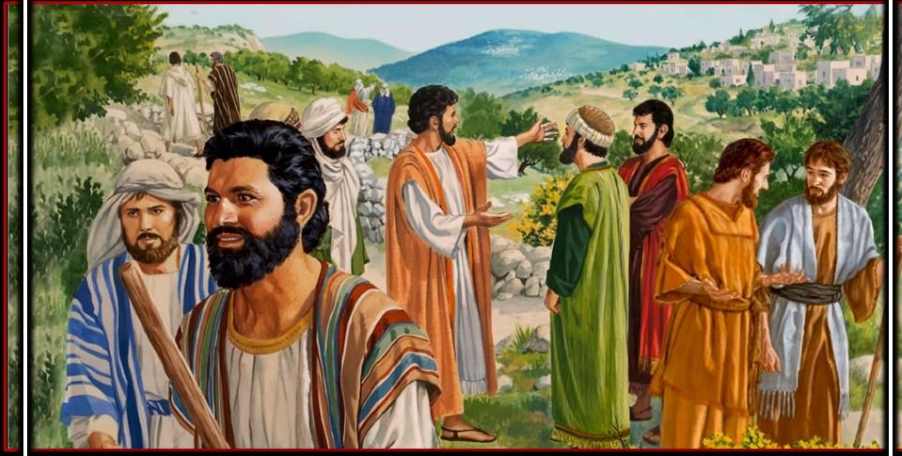


Bemidbar [num] 13:27-28 "We went to the land where you sent us. And truly, it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit."

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They were also sent to assess the people & their cities. Whether the inhabitants were strong or whether the cities were fortified.

The Disciples Sent Out with The Good News



Can we also draw here a connection with the 12 disciples being sent out to bring in a harvest where the promised land is the kingdom of Heaven & the people resistant to the truth who might also become violent as we surely can testify. We then read what they found in:

Anakim & Goliath



Bemidbar [num] 13:28 "moreover we saw the descendants of Anak.

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When the Spies returned and gave their report, they agreed that Canaan was a land flowing with milk & honey, however they also saw **mighty men, powerful cities & the Anakim** or giants in the land who may have been the ancestors of **Goliath** the Giant' but that brought fear into their hearts.



The Returning Spies

**Bemidbar [num]
14:1** all the
congregation
lifted up their
voices & cried,
and the people
wept all night.

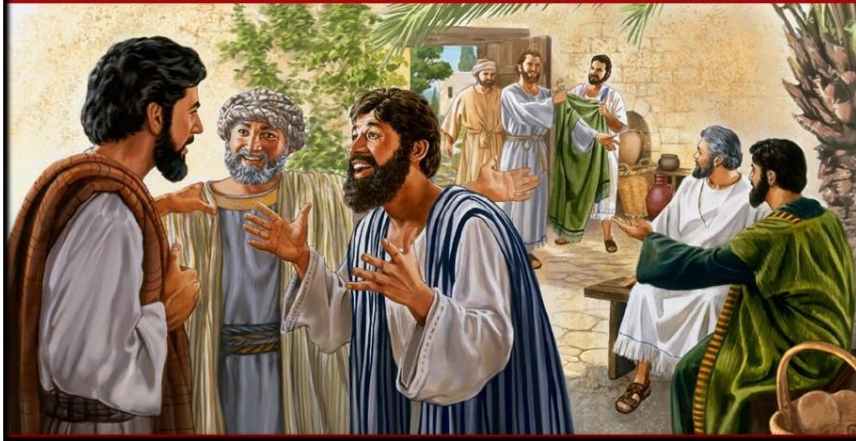
It is with their own low esteem that they saw themselves as grasshoppers forgetting the promise that Elohim made to Abraham and that He would fulfil it now. So, we read the response of the whole congregation in:

Bemidbar [num] 14:1 all the congregation lifted up their voices & cried, and the people wept all night.

However, there is also an interesting question. Why do we read that their journey ended at Hebron? Why is that so significant & what did it represent? Surely, we can determine why! It is because the tomb of the Patriarchs of **Abraham, Yitschaq [Isaac] & Yaacov [Jacob]** was there. Knowing this truth was meant to encourage all the spies & the whole congregation of Yisrael that Elohim was about to fulfil all his promises. The **Sage Rashi** suggests it was **Kalev [Caleb]** that bowed before the tomb of the Patriarchs claiming Hebron for himself in faith.

When Yeshua sent out his 70 disciples giving them authority in his name, we see a quite different response when they returned from their mission as in:

Luke 10:17-20 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."
20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."



Luke 10:17, 20 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Master, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Just as these 70 were given authority to go out so we must believe in the authority & the power of the **Ruach Ha Kodesh [the Holy Spirit]** that we have been given to bring his truth to the world & to drive out demons and heal the sick. This call to us especially in today's world is not an easy one but it will bring great joy. **Yeshua** himself gives these disciples the picture of what to expect in this:

Slide-

Luke 10:3 Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. **4** Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road.



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Yeshua here is teaching them & us not to get distracted from our mission which is a great one. It is so easy to be busy & consumed with our life & see no need for doing more but every believer has been given his role to play in the kingdom whether small or great, but it does require faith. These disciples saw the **power of Elohim** when they went, in obedience to the Master and not before. It is a challenge, but we have within us a great treasure worth all the hardship, but the reward is truly worth it. Sadly, in the story we just read the Spies could not see their great potential which rested on the authority of YHWH and not themselves alone.

Lessons for Us Today



What lessons can we learn from this account of Yisrael in the wilderness?

Firstly: We need to be people of faith, seeing ourselves as sons and daughters of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords—and not tiny grasshoppers to be crushed under some giant’s foot. We also need to believe that no matter what challenge we face today, we are **“well able to overcome it”** with the help of Elohim [God].

This is the kind of faith that pleases YHWH Elohim [God]. Without it, it is impossible to please Him as we read in:



Ivri'im [Hebrews] 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Secondly: As people of faith, we need to guard our speech and speak forth faith-filled words.

Why did the whole community of **Yisrael die** in the wilderness? They **reaped the fruit** of their faithless, fearful words.

Reaping Your Words



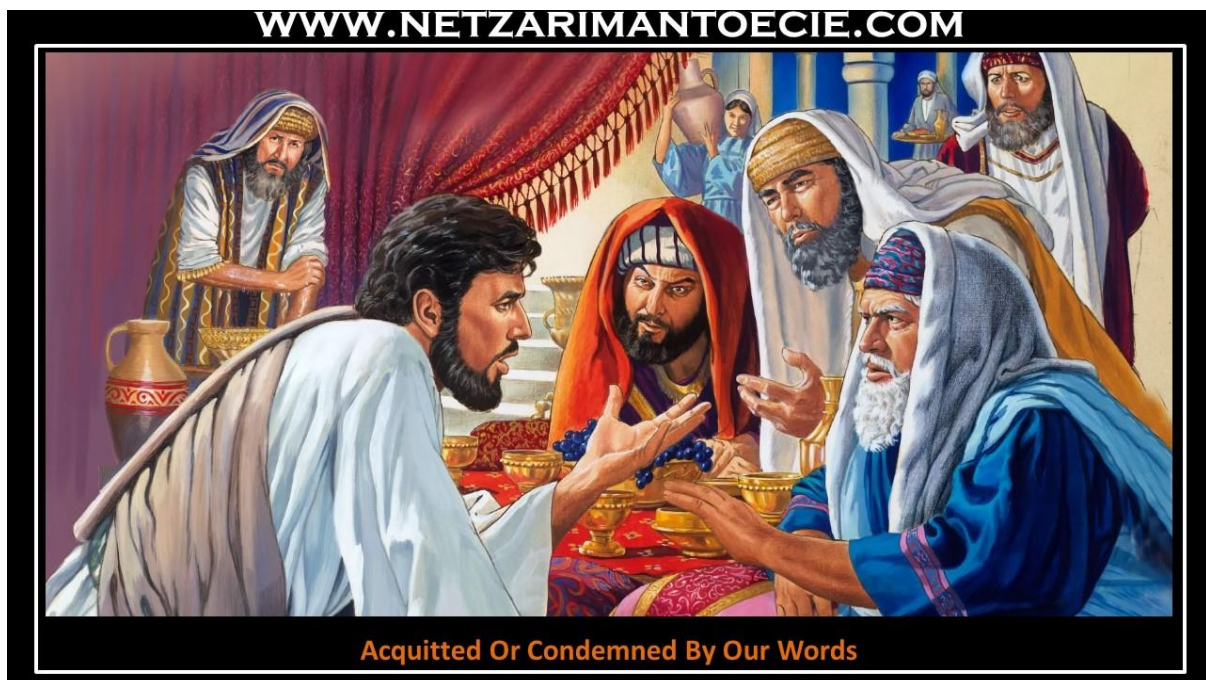
[We will surely die in this wilderness]

The people said many times, **“We will surely die in this wilderness,”** and YHWH Elohim [God] allowed them to speak their own future into existence.

For each of the 40 days that the Yisraelites spied out the land of Canaan, the Yisraelites would wander in the wilderness a year until that generation died—40 years. Only Yahushua [Joshua] and Caleb, who had a different spirit and wholly trusted in YHWH Elohim would enter the Promised Land along with the next generation.

Thirdly: We need to repent of our unbelief and begin trusting in YHWH [Elohim [God] or else we cannot move forward. And sometimes, our lack of faith may prevent us from moving forward in a particular area even after we repent. The Yisraelites could not see past their fear & unbelief & just wanted to return to the slavery of Mitsrayim [Egypt]. When this fear & unbelief turned into violence it was the last straw. This would then see their corpses fall in the wilderness over the next 40 years.

Our faith matters to Elohim [God]!



Yeshua said that it is by our words that we will be acquitted and by our words we will be condemned. **(MatithYahu [Matthew] 12:37)**

May we be careful and deliberate in the words that we speak over ourselves and others, since faith comes by hearing & hearing by the word of Elohim.

May our words and actions be a testimony of the goodness and greatness of the EL [Elohim [God] of Yisrael, and may we take hold of His promises by faith. We read these most important words in:

Tehillim [Psalm] 19:14 “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, YHWH, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

The final Truth:

The most wonderful revelation that we can draw out of this story, however, is how Mosheh being a most humble man interceded for Yisrael to prevent their entire destruction. Just as

he did at the Golden Calf fiasco, he stood between them and destruction much like Yeshua has done for all mankind bearing the sins of the world as we read in these words:

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Matithyahu [Matthew] 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

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It is my desire that we truly come to see how favoured we are to be people called by the Father of all creation out of a mass of humanity to believe not of ourselves but by his calling.

Amen!

Haftarah: Y'hoshua [Joshua] 2:1-21

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Haftarah: Joshua [Yahushua] 2:1-22



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Rachab [Rahab] Takes In The Spies

Yahusha [Joshua]2: 1 And Yahusha [Yehoshua] son of Nun secretly sent out two men from Shittim to spy, saying, "Go, see the land and Yericho [Jericho]." And they went and came to the house of a woman, a harlot and her name was Rachab, and they lay down there. **2** But it was reported to the sovereign of Yericho, saying, "See, men from the children of Yisra'el have come here tonight to search out the land." **3** And the sovereign of Yericho sent to Rachab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." **4** But the woman had taken the two men and hid them. So, she said, "The men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. **5** "Then it came to be as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, so that you overtake them." **6** But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid out on the roof. **7** And the men pursued them by the way to the Yardēn [Jordan], to the fords [the crossing]. And they shut the gate afterwards as soon as the pursuers had gone out. **8** And before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, **9** and she said to the men, "I know that יהוה has given you the land and that the fear of you has fallen on us and that all the inhabitants of the land melted away because of you.

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Rachab Receives A Pledge

10 "For we have heard how יהוה dried up the water of the Sea of Reeds for you when you came out of Mitsrayim [Egypt] and what you did to the two sovereigns of the Amorites who were beyond the Yardēn [Jordan], Sichon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. **11** "And when we heard, our hearts melted and there was no spirit left in anyone because of you, for יהוה your Elohim, He is Elohim in the heavens above and on earth beneath. **12** "And now, please swear to me by יהוה, since I have shown you kindness, that you also will show kindness to my father's house and shall give me a true pledge, **13** and shall spare my father and my mother and my brothers and my sisters and all that they have and shall deliver our lives from death." **14** And the men said to her, "Our lives for yours, if you do not expose this matter of ours, then it shall be, when יהוה has given us the land, that we shall deal with you in kindness and truth." **15** So she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was on the city wall and she dwelt on the wall. **16** And she said to them, "Go to the mountain, lest the pursuers come upon you. And you should hide there three days, until the pursuers have returned and afterwards go on your way."

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The Spies Escape Yericho

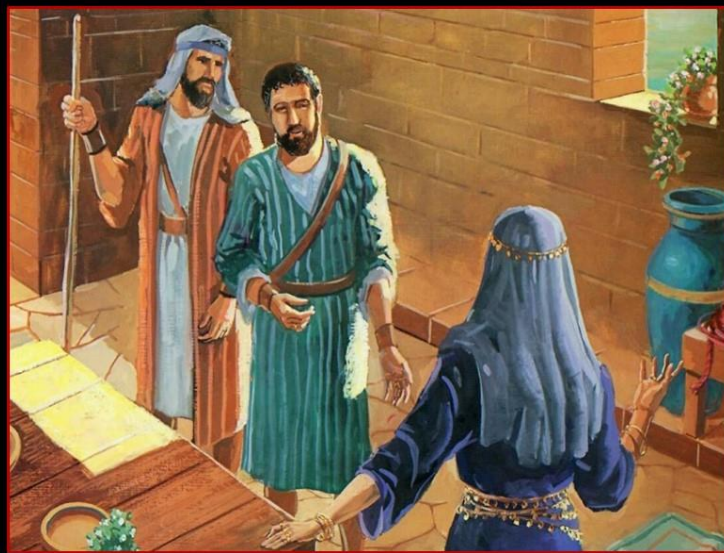
17 And the men said to her, "We are released from this oath of yours which you have made us swear, **18** unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down and unless you bring your father and your mother and your brothers and all your father's household to your own home. **19** "And it shall be that anyone who goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood is on his own head, and we are innocent. And anyone who is with you in the house, his blood is on our head if a hand is laid on him. **20** "And if you expose this matter of ours, then we shall be released from your oath which you made us swear." **21** And she said, "Let it be according to your words." And she sent them away and they went. And she bound the scarlet cord in the window. **22** So they left and came to the mountain and stayed there three days until the pursuers returned. And the pursuers sought them in all the way but did not find them.

Rahab's Extreme Faith

After the period of 40 years, we now return to the borders of the promised land with Joshua leading the people of Yisrael. Unlike the 1st time Joshua sends two spies to scout the pagan city of Yericho [Jericho] named after the worship of the Moon.

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Rahab's Extreme Faith



The spies had come to lodge at the house of a Harlot named Rahab but in identifying them she revealed extreme faith by saying that the Elohim of Yisrael would take the land so she hid the spies when messengers from the King came to question her. The news of all that had happened by the hand of YHWH had so brought terror to the Canaanites that Rahab risked it all to protect the spies making a deal with them which amazingly YHWH himself honoured. As amazing as this story is it also reminds us that Elohim is not the respecter of people but

rather of faith because Rahab a harlot is found in the generational line of Yeshua. She finally accepted an oath from the men & let them down out of the window trusting them & YHWH for her family's protection an act of great faith too.



The question that arises from this story is whether we would take a stand against everything we have inherited & been taught, to defend the truth of YHWH, the Bible & the redemption found in Yeshua if it meant the loss of everything, we have whether family, career or our life as we read in the story of Judith the Russian Martyr.

May the faith we have, truly stand the test that may come to it in the World that is slowly but surely moving away from faith in Elohim. May we truly be that light in the world fuelled by the Holy Spirit.

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Netzarim Ketuvim: Ivri'im [Hebrews] 3:7-4:1



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Hearing The Voice Of The Holy Spirit

Ivri'im [Hebrews] 3: 7 Therefore, as the Set-apart [the Holy] Spirit says, "Today, if you hear His voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of testing in the wilderness, 9 where your fathers tried Me, proved Me and saw My works forty years. 10 "Therefore I was grieved with that generation and said, 'They always go astray in their heart and they have not known My ways.' 11 "As I swore in My wrath, 'they shall not enter into My rest...'" 12 See now, my brothers, lest there be in any of you a wicked heart of unbelief in departing from the living Elohim, 13 but encourage one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you shall harden his heart by the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Messiah if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm to the end, 15 while it is said, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Was it not all who came out of Mitsrayim [Egypt], led by Mosheh? 17 And with whom was He grieved forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter into His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they were unable to enter in because of unbelief.

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Proclaim The Good News Of His Salvation

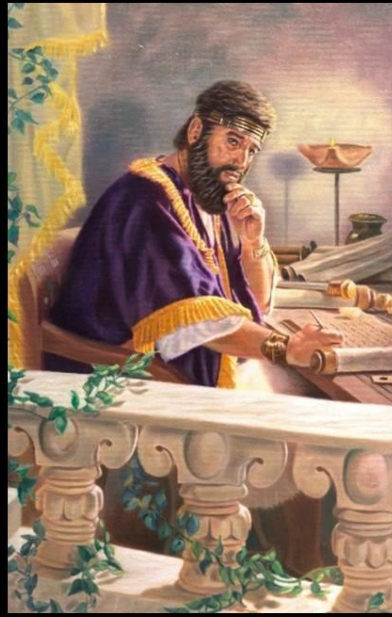
- 12 Let the field exult and all that is in it. Let all the trees of the forest then shout for joy,
13 At the presence of יהוה. For He shall come, For He shall come to judge the earth. He judges the world in righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

The Challenge of Faithfulness:

The writer of Hebrews makes it clear that the challenge is for today and repeats that theme three times. The rest that YHWH promised Yisrael was the land of **Kena'an** but because of their rebellion they never entered that rest. Surely that is also the picture of the rest we have in **Yeshua**. The challenge for today is to trust completely in the merit of Yeshua for our righteous standing before YHWH. The Jews of the days of Yeshua deceived themselves thinking that they could find righteousness in their obedience just as many do today but by so doing, they reject **Yeshua** as the only source of righteousness. By focussing exceedingly on the Torah & on the **Mitsvoth [the Commandments]** are we doing the same. YHWH through Yeshua was opening a new and living way that would perfect those of His people because salvation is received as a gift through faith & obedience simply flows out of that sure salvation & the love of Yeshua our King & Redeemer.

Tehillim: Mizmor [Psalm] 96:1-13

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Tehillim:
Mizmor [Psalm]
96:1- 13

**The Splendour &
Majesty Of YHWH**

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Proclaim The Good News Of His Salvation

- Mizmor [Psalm] 27 :1** Sing to יהוה a new song, Sing to יהוה, all the earth!
- 2** Sing to יהוה, bless His Name, Proclaim the good tidings of His salvation from day to day.
- 3** Declare His esteem among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.
- 4** For great is יהוה and greatly to be praised, He is to be feared above all mighty ones.
- 5** For all the mighty ones of the peoples are idols, But יהוה made the heavens.
- 6** Splendor and majesty are before Him, Strength and beauty are in His Sanctuary.
- 7** Ascribe to יהוה, O clans of the peoples, Ascribe to יהוה esteem and strength.
- 8** Ascribe to יהוה the esteem of His Name; Bring an offering and come into His courts.
- 9** Bow yourselves to יהוה, In the splendor of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.
- 10** Say among nations, "יהוה shall reign. The world also is established, immovable.
He judges the people in equity."
- 11** Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar and all that fills it;

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Proclaim The Good News Of His Salvation

- 12** Let the field exult and all that is in it. Let all the trees of the forest then shout for joy,
13 At the presence of יהוה. For He shall come, For He shall come to judge the earth. He judges the world in righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

The Splendour & Majesty of YHWH

This great **Mizmor** or Psalm anticipates kingdom praise from all the nations of the world and even from nature itself. It also expresses the intense joy that will saturate the whole earth when the Messiah is ruling from Jerusalem where the world will dwell under His glorious & righteous Judgement. It is within our realm of faith to begin now with new songs of praise because we know that day is coming when all will be established as He has promised. This will surely be in His Millennial rule but for us that should begin today if He truly rules in our hearts.

Amein!