

Shelach Lecha- Sent Forth to take the land:



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

Netzarim 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 it's 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**:

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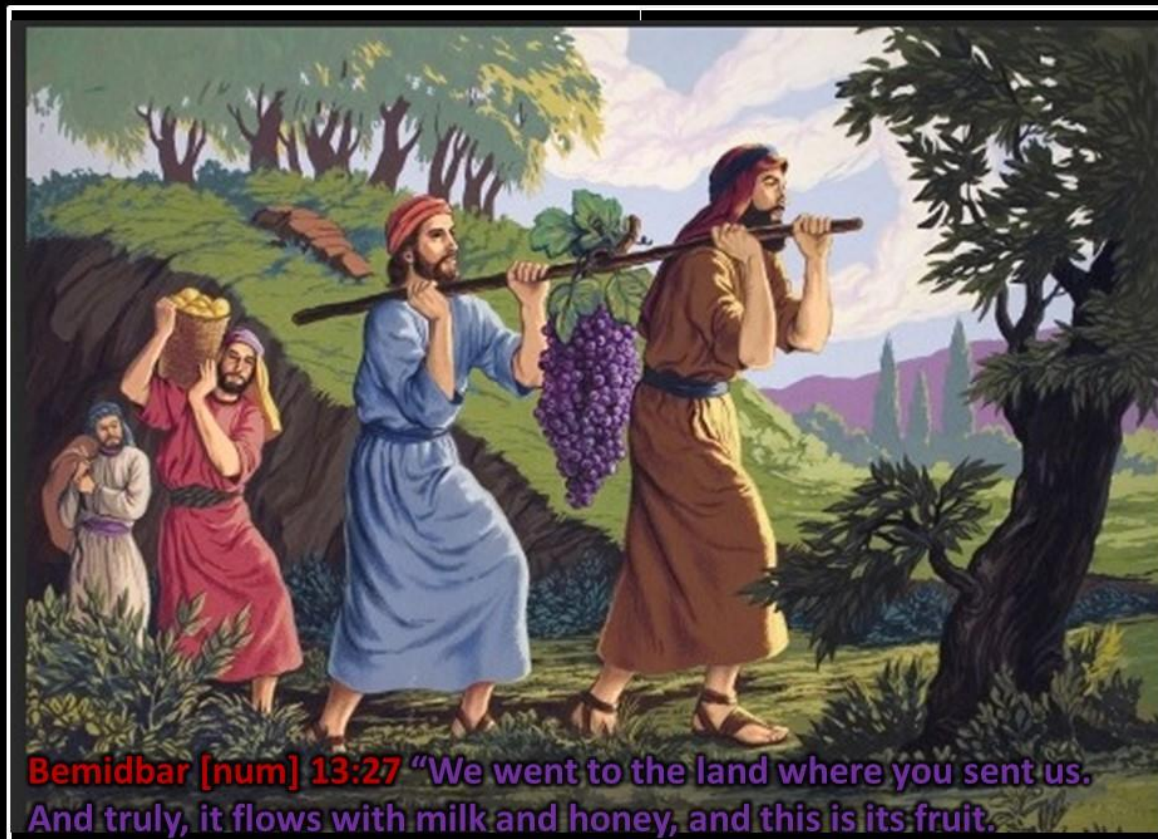


***The Fields Are
White For
Harvest***

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:

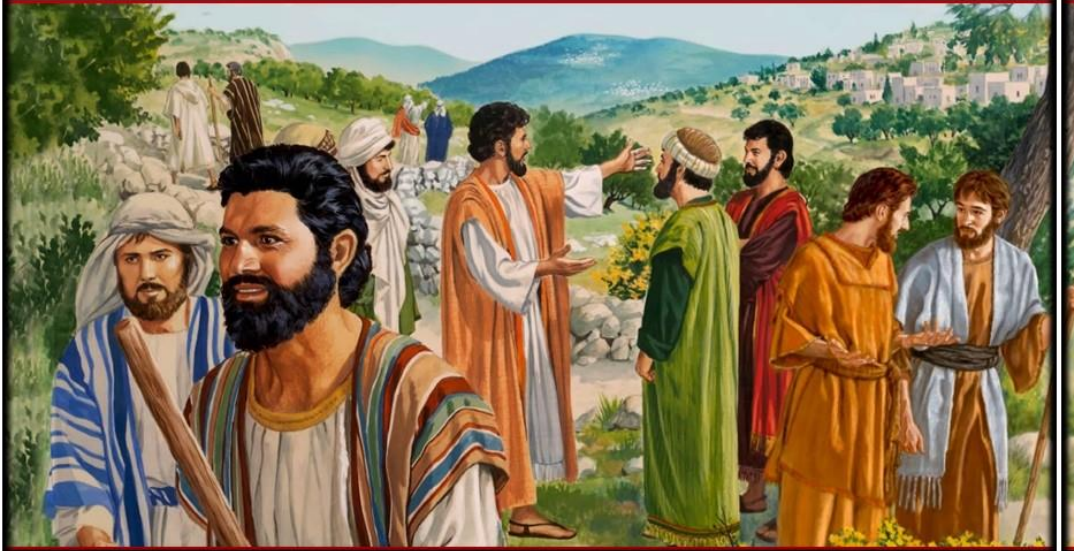


Bemidbar [num] 13:27 "We went to the land where you sent us. And truly, it flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit."

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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.

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:

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*The
Returning
Spies*

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

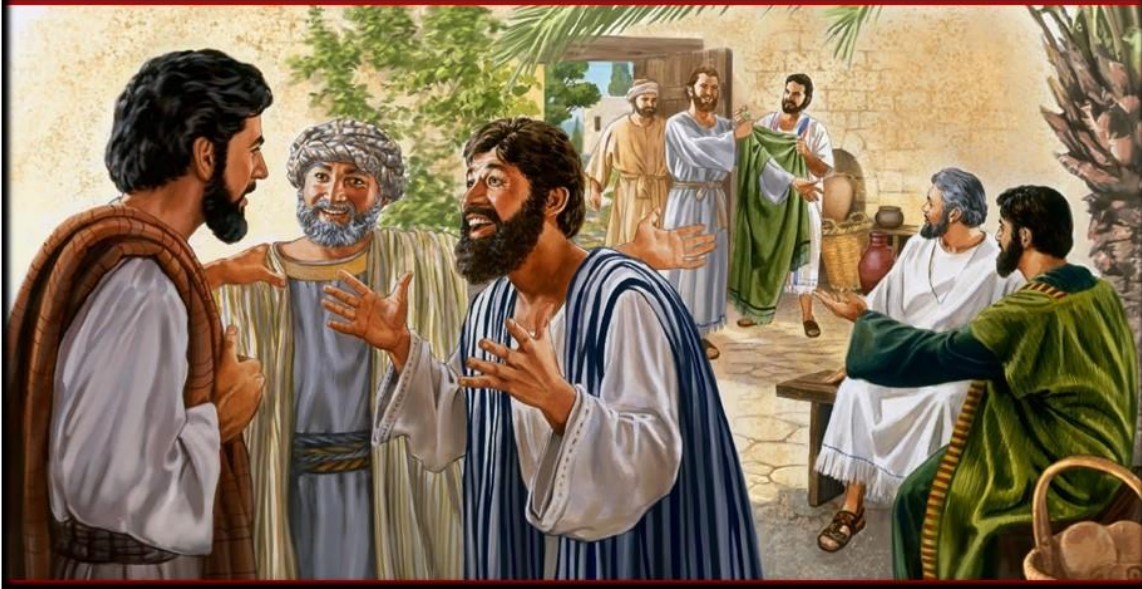
Bemidbar [num] 14:1 all the congregation lifted up their voices & cried, and the people wept all night.

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 verse:

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?

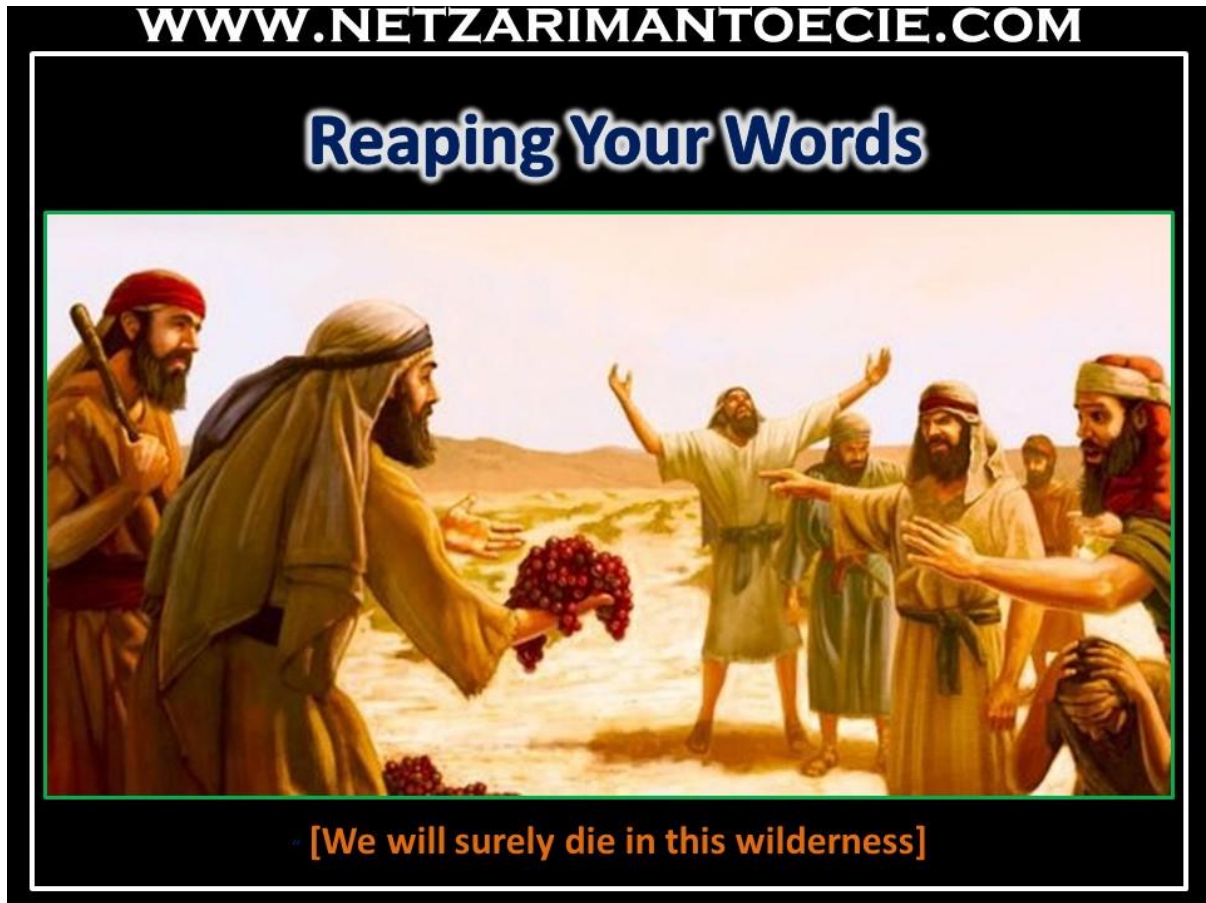
Firstly: We need to be people of faith, seeing ourselves as sons and daughters of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords—and not tiny grasshoppers to be crushed under some giant's foot. We also need to believe that no matter what challenge we face today, we are **“well able to overcome it”** with the help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

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.



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](#)



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.



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.

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Rahab Helps the Spies Escape

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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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.

Amein!

Shavua Tov Aleykhem! [A Good Week Unto You]