

# TRUSTING THE LORD

SPIES VS. APOSTLES

## Parashat Shelach

“Send!”

Numbers 13-15



# Torah Portion Topics

- **Numbers 13 – Survey of the Holy Land**
- **Numbers 14 – Rebellion from the Report**
- **Numbers 15 – Offerings, Tzitziyot**

## Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

The Lord said to Moses, 2 “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.”

## Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. 18 See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. 19 What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad?

## Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? 20 How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” (*It was the season for the first ripe grapes.*)

## Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. 22 They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (*Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.*)



## Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

23 When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. 24 That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. 25 At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.



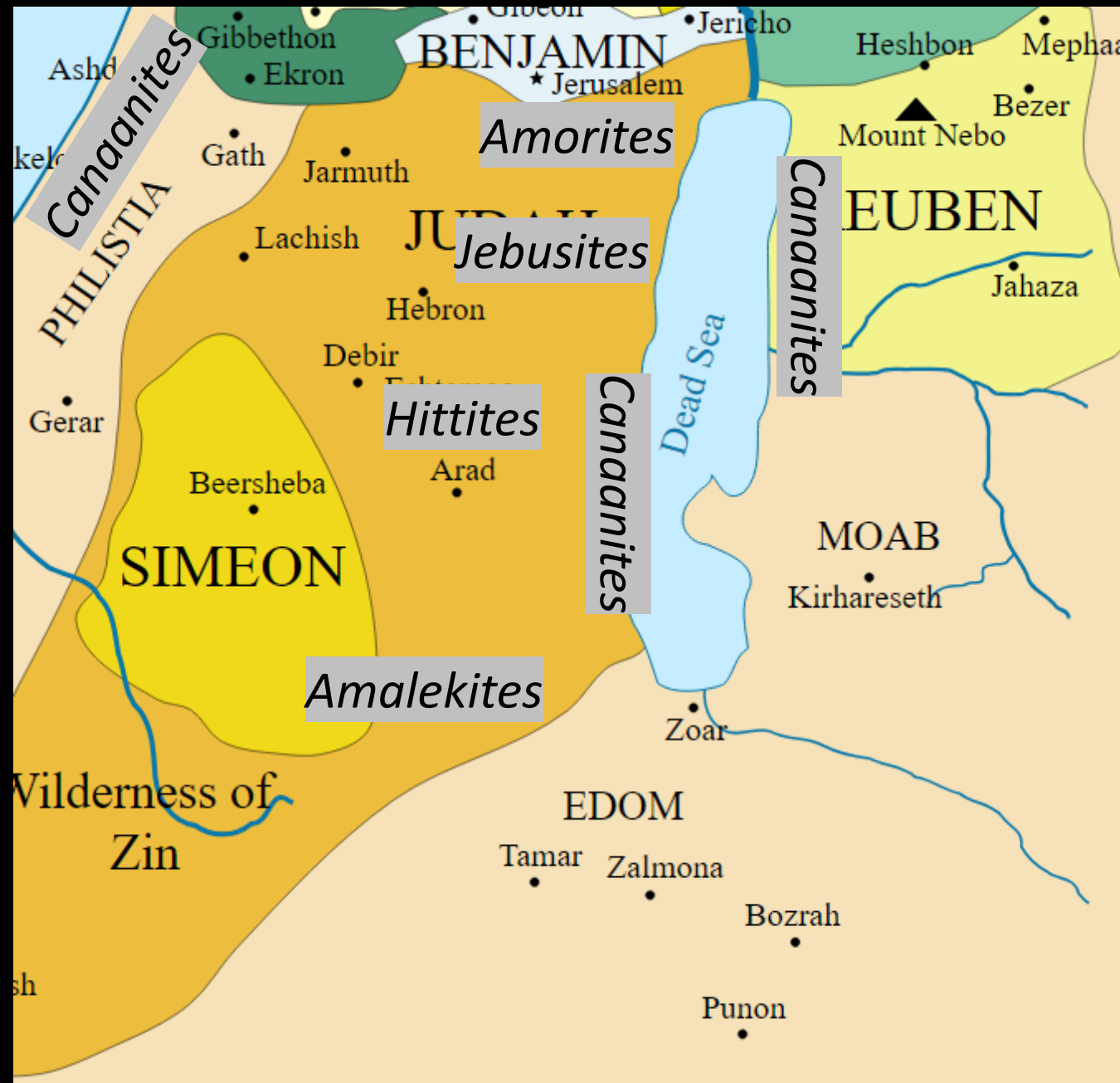


## Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account:

# Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

“We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”



## Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

- *Caleb trusts the Lord!*
- No denial of the report

## Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.”



Wait a minute...Exodus 17

8 The Amalekites  
came and attacked  
the Israelites at  
Rephidim...

Joshua overcame  
the Amalekite army  
with the sword.



## Story of the 12 spies – Numbers 13

32 they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (*the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim*). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

# Report to Moses

Num 13:27 They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit.. However, the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there...

- Land is amazing!
- Milk and honey indeed
- Fruit is chunky and abundant!
- Big dudes there...





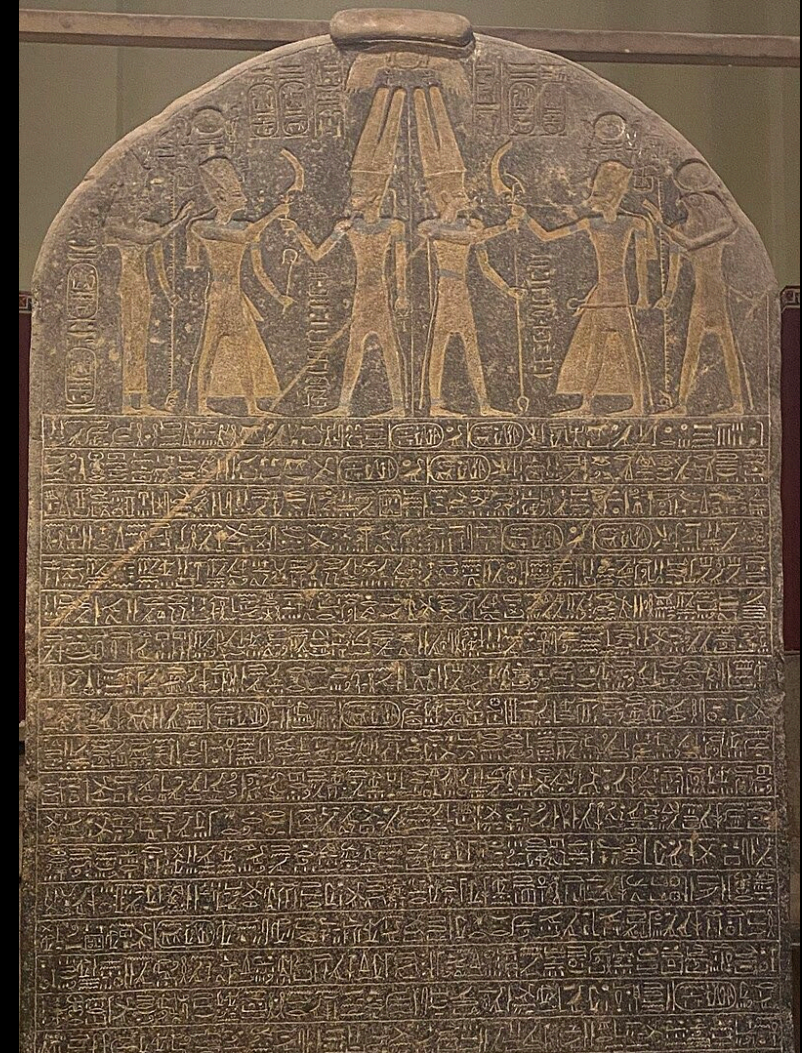
# Report to the people

Num 13:32 “The land we explored consumes those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.

- REALLY big dudes
- Legendary heroes of old, men of renown

*“The land we explored consumes those living in it”*

- Land is too big to take?
  - *Wouldn't you want a lot of land to settle?*
- Infertile?
- Constant warfare?
  - *What happens after they conquer it for themselves with Adonai?*









Where is their trust?





Where is  
their trust?



Where is their trust?





Where is their trust?



## Leaders influence the Israelites – Numbers 14

All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! 3 Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” 4 And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.



# Who were the spies?

- Num 13:3 *“at the Lord’s command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.”*
- Leaders → People
- Their fear → held people back
- Holding back their blessing

# The Bigger Issue

- Just like the spies
  - Questioning God's choice
    - *Delivering them to an abundant land of their own*
  - Questioning his promise
  - Questioning his power? Denying it?
    - *Signs and wonders*
- Numbers 14:11: “How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, despite all the signs I have performed among them?”

# Leviticus 20:24

I have said to you, “You all are to take possession of their land, and I Myself will give it to you to possess, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

- God spoke the truth
- God displayed his power

# True Trust

Joshua and Caleb said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. 8 If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord . And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because they are our food. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”



# My own reflection

- Numbers 6: “*The Lord will bless you and keep you*”
- Holy Spirit
- Job
- House

12 Spies vs. 12 Apostles

## Matthew 10:1-

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction... Yeshua sent out these 12, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the nations and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

# Disciples to Apostles

- 12 in number
- ἀπόστολος – apostle – “one sent”
- 12 apostles = 12 tribes of Israel
- 12 apostles = 12 spies
- 12 spies “sent” into the land



# Apostles vs. Spies

- Spies

- Sent – bad report
- Give bad report
- 2 trust, rest don't
- Sent into Canaan (Israel)
- Establish God's kingdom=  
nation of Israel

- Apostles

- Sent – good news!
- Good report given to them
- All trust
- Sent to Israel
- Establish God's kingdom=  
Yeshua's rule & presence

# What did he send them for?

- To proclaim: “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- Same message
  - John: “repent...the kingdom of heaven is at hand”
  - Yeshua’s first public statement
  - Now the apostles

“go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” Why?

- “go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel”
- Urgent need of God’s people
- The Lord → Prophets → the people → Repent!
- 2 Chronicles 24:19 - *Although the Lord sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him, and though they testified against them, they would not listen.*

Matthew 10:7-8 –

And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

Heal the sick,  
raise the dead,  
cleanse lepers,  
cast out demons

Signs and Wonders perhaps?

John 4:48 Then Yeshua said to him, “Unless you all see signs and wonders, you all will not believe.”

What do you think “the kingdom is at hand” means?

## Matthew 10:11-14

And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. 12 As you enter the house, greet it. 13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And if anyone will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

# Compare and contrast Apostles with Israel Entering the Land

- Israel - Signs
- Apostles – Signs
- Israel – have success by?
- Apostles – have success by?
- Apostles – if refused?



# Why a worse fate than Sodom and Gomorrah?

- Denying his message – what is his message?
- Not believing in him = Refusing eternal life

## Matthew 10:16-18

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.

# Where does their report lead them?

- In front of leaders
- In front of Gentiles
- Opportunity to bear witness to the nations
- Israel's role – Exodus 19
  - *“you will be for me a kingdom of priests”*
- What do priests do?

The Apostles get a similar role!

Matthew 28:19-20

*“go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and  
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and  
teaching them to obey everything I have  
commanded you”*

# The Nations will believe – Matthew 8

When Yeshua had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. 6 “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” 7 And Yeshua said to him, “I will come and heal him.” 8 But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. 9 For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

# The Nations will believe – Matthew 8

10 When Yeshua heard this, he marveled and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.

Centurion — *Not in advantaged position*

Israel — *In advantaged position*

## Matthew 8:11-13

I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, 12 while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 And Yeshua said to the centurion, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

# 1 Peter 2:12-17

Live such good lives among the nations that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right.



# 1 Peter 2:12-17

15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's servants. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

# Your opportunities

- Confess Messiah to all
- Live in his ways...silence the foolish
- Fulfill the great commission
- Good report
  - *Action*
  - *Testimony*