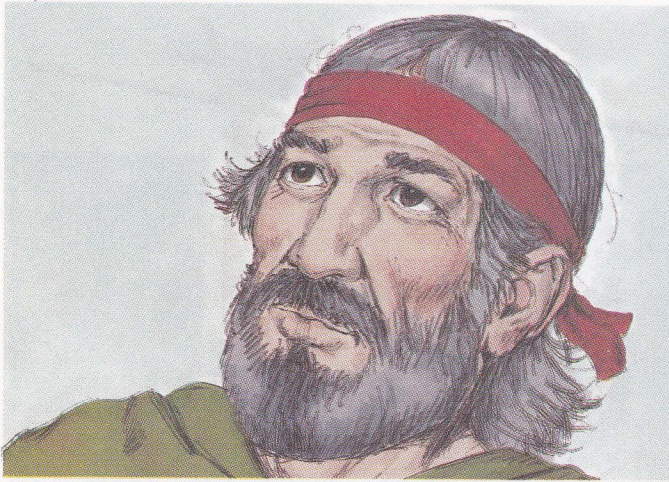


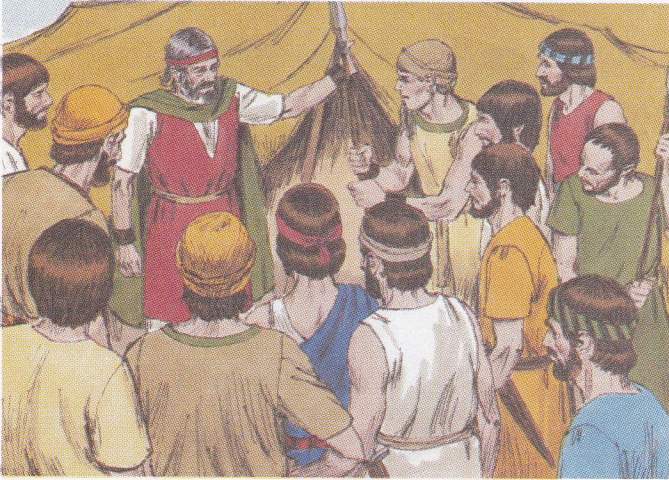
The Spies Sent to Canaan



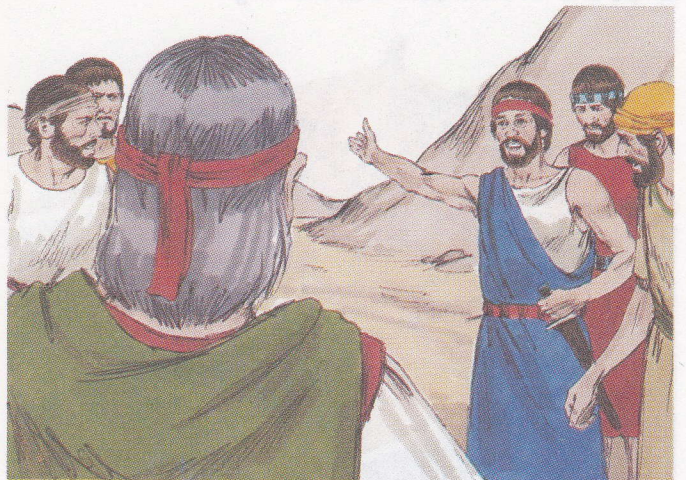
1 The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Paran: "Choose a leader from each of the tribes and send them to explore the land of Canaan, which I have promised to give them."



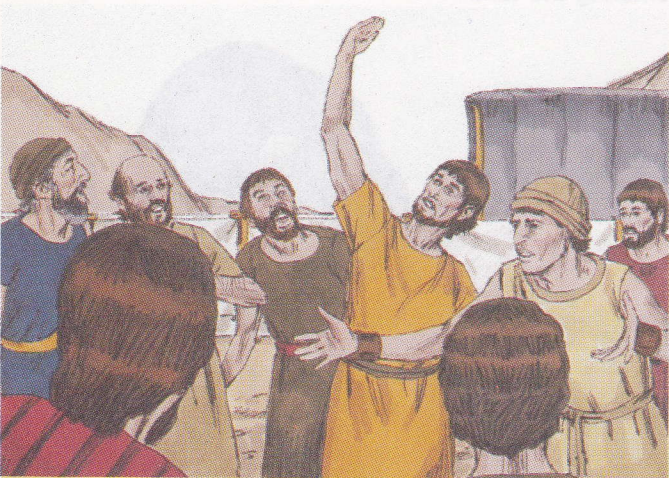
2 Moses chose twelve men and said to them, "Find out how good the land is and how strong the people are. Find out if their cities are fortified." Then he sent the spies on to Canaan.



3 The spies returned after exploring the land for forty days. "The land is rich and fertile," they said, "but the people there are strong and their cities are well fortified."



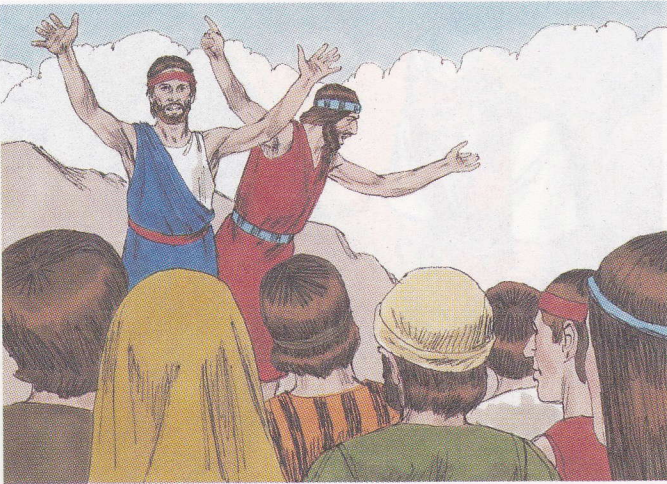
4 However, one of the spies, Caleb, said, "We should attack now and take the land. We are strong enough to conquer it." Ten of the spies said, "No, the people there are too powerful."



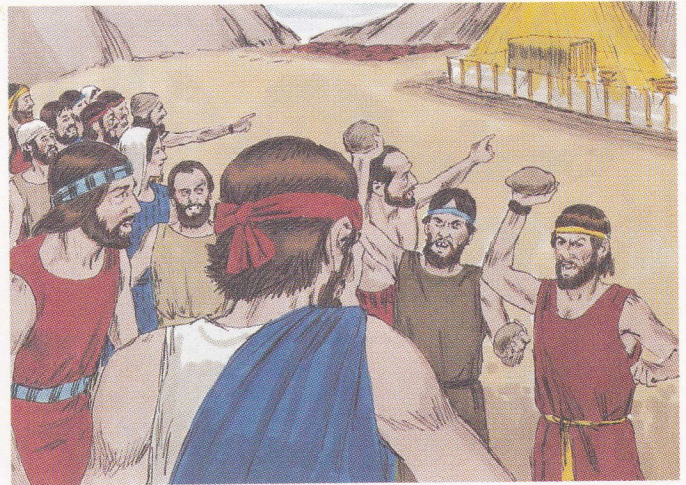
5 "The land will not be good for us," these spies told the Israelites. "And the people are giants. We felt as small as grasshoppers, and that is how we must have looked to them."



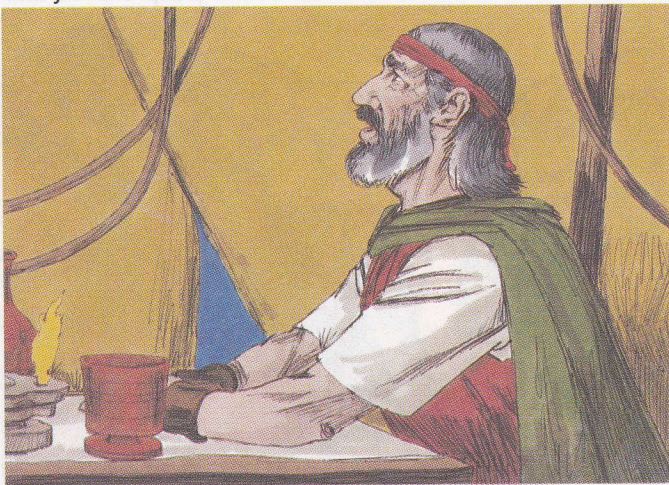
6 All night long the people complained to Moses. "It would have been better to die in Egypt! If we do go to this land, we'll be killed! Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"



7 But Caleb and Joshua, the two faithful spies, said to the people, "The land we explored is an excellent one. With God's help, we can conquer the people easily! Don't be afraid!"



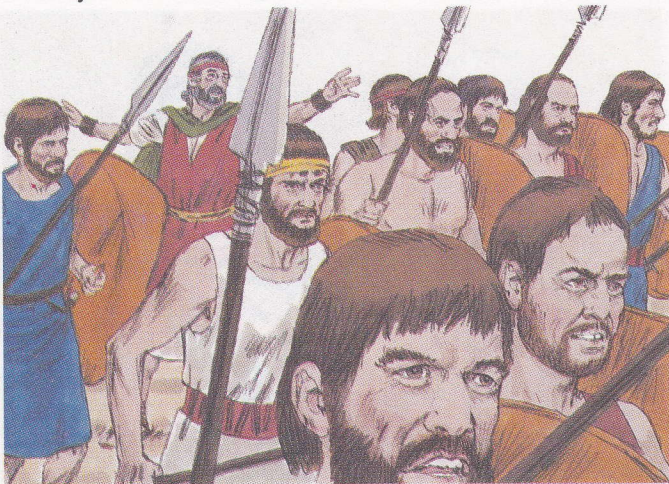
8 But the people were about to stone the two spies when the light of God appeared over the Tabernacle. God said, "How much longer will these people refuse to trust in me? I will destroy them!"



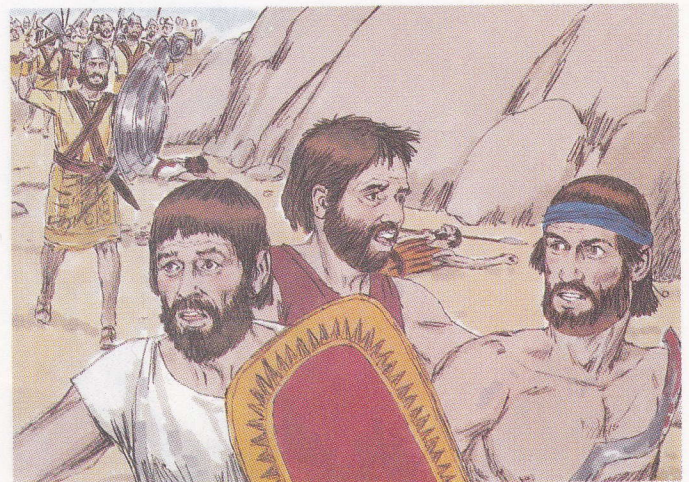
9 Moses prayed, and the Lord changed his mind. But God said, "None of the unfaithful will live to enter the land. You will wander around for forty years, until the last of you is dead."



10 The ten spies who had spread the false report were struck with a disease and died. But Joshua and Caleb, who had been faithful, were not harmed.



11 When the people learned what the Lord had said, they decided to leave right away for Canaan. Moses warned them, saying, "The Lord will not be with you. You will die in battle."



12 The people paid no attention to Moses. But as Moses had said, they were defeated and chased away by the Canaanites. Without the Lord's help, they could not enter Canaan.