

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 07 Sept 2025	Numbers 01-09	The Journey
2) 14 Sept	Numbers 10-12	Provision
3) 21 Sept	Numbers 13	The Land
4) 28 Sept	Numbers 14	Rebellion and Judgement
5) 05 Oct	Numbers 15-20	Lack of Trust
6) 12 Oct	Numbers 21-27	God's Plan
7) 19 Oct	Numbers 28-36	Instructions Given
8) 26 Oct	Deuteronomy 01-04	Remember
9) 02 Nov	Deuteronomy 05-06	Love
10) 09 Nov	Deuteronomy 07-18	Undivided Worship
11) 16 Nov	Deuteronomy 19-28	Covenant Relationship
12) 23 Nov	Deuteronomy 29-30	Fully Committed
13) 30 Nov	Deuteronomy 31-34	God's Power

INTRODUCTION

- We see Israel's cream of the crop are chosen to spy out the Promised Land, but only 2 out of 12 see things God's way. WHY?

Passage	Comments
13:1-16	<p>The First Spy Agency (FSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v2. Everyone chosen to spy out the land was to be an acknowledged "leader" – Why? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why pick managerial leaders? Why not pick technical specialists in agriculture or in geo-political science? Recall 10 out of 12 of these leaders brought back a disparaging report (v32) Only 2 of these leaders (Caleb & Joshua) looked at the results differently 12 of Israel's best leaders were sent into the "land of milk & honey" to SPY on enemy resources of food, fortresses, & fighters. If you are spying, you are lying! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we answer skeptics about this behavior?
Spying & Lying: Right or Wrong?	<p>Are there biblical principles to justify spying and using "unconventional" or deceptive means?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> God does not divulge the wicked schemes of nations as He once did with Elisha (2 Kings 6:8-12). So, nations often have to conduct various forms of espionage to safeguard their people and interests from rogue nations bent on doing evil. Employing Deceptive Means. There are biblical principles where lying or withholding the truth seems justified to preserve the lives of innocent victims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hebrew midwives lied to Pharaoh and reaped blessings from God Exodus 1: 15-21 Rahab lied about the 2 spies, and she saved her family and became an ancestor of Jesus..Joshua 2 King David feigned insanity to protect his life – and was successful 1Samuel 21:13 Potential for Misuse & Abuse from Spying. Naturally, we live in a fallen world, so miscarriages of justice can easily happen, even to the best of nations – So, remember to pray for the welfare of the nation we live in so we may live wellJeremiah 29:7 <p>More Thots. Jesus said we (as individuals) need to be wise as serpents but gentle as doves Mat 10:16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thus, it seems OK to conceal truth for a higher purpose – not to harm, not for convenience sake, not to achieve gain, but to protect lives from evil intent Also, from a nation's perspective, God gives nations considerably more liberty to safeguard their populace ("they don't carry the sword in vain" – Romans 13:4) – YET, nations are to exercise restraint in war less they be judged with annihilation (see Amos 1:1 – 2:3)

Passage	Comments
13:17-24	<p>Spies Do Their Job Admirably</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They accomplished the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They were to go in all directions ...and assess the people, the land, and the cities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Was the land productive? Were the people weak or strong? Were the cities defensible or fortified? In other words, was their conquest going to be easy or hard, and would the payoff be worth the trouble? Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why go through the effort of assessing God's plan to conquer & demolish the inhabitants of the Land? Would this bring positive, negative, or neutral results?
13:25-27	<p>First the Good News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The spies brought back some very positive news and by-products from the Land to "ALL the congregation" Indeed, the Land seemed to be very productive for the taking (it flows with milk and honey)
13:28-33	<p>Now the Bad News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v30. Caleb tried to reassure the people of God's immutable promise for them to successfully conquer the land vv28-29,31-33. BUT, The Jews opted to focus on the gigantic-looking obstacles and not on the affirmed promises of God (similar to Peter looking at the waves around him & not on Jesus when he got out of the boat, Mat 14:30) Considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall Moses was dealing with a perverted generation, much like those Jesus dealt with in His generation Deut 32:20; Mat 17:17 So, it will not be easy to settle this or any issue amicably and with godly results

CONCLUSIONS / APPLICATIONS

- Do similar struggles occur in churches TODAY where Leaders take differing positions at times. ANY EXAMPLES?
 - When do we maintain status quo or make some risky changes?
- How does one discern who is in the right?
 - Is the majority always in the right?
 - Is the Pastor or other leaders always in the right?
- How should a lone voice or a few lone voices biblically challenge the majority or the ones in authority?



WORLD POLITICS HASN'T CHANGED MUCH OVER THE PAST 4,000 YEARS WHEN IT COMES TO ISRAEL.