

Cornerstone 2017—Eat.Pray.Invest—Atheist Corner

The Scouts

Numbers 13

[1] God spoke to Moses, saying, [2] “Send men to explore the land of Canaan that I am giving to the Children of Israel—each and every one that you send shall represent his ancestral tribe, each a prince among them.” [3] And Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran as God had commanded—all were men of stature, heads of the Children of Israel.

[17] When Moses sent them to explore the land of Canaan, he said to them, “. . . [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? 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 on it or not? Be strong! And bring back some of the fruit of the land”

[21] And they went up and explored the land . . . [22] . . . and there were . . . offspring of giants there.

[25] They returned from their exploration of the land at the end of forty days. [26] They came back to Moses and Aaron and to the whole Israelite community [T]hey reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land.

[27] [The scouts] told him: “We came to the land to which you sent us, and it is indeed flowing with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. [28] However, the people who live in the land are strong, the cities are enormously fortified, and we saw the offspring of giants there!”

[30] But Caleb [one of the scouts] silenced the people toward Moses and said, “We can absolutely go up and take possession of [the land]. We will be able to handle it!”

[31] But the men who went up with him said, “We won’t be able to go up against that people because it is stronger than we are.” [32] And they libeled the land they had explored, saying to the Children of Israel, “The land . . . we explored . . . is a land that devours its inhabitants. And all the people we saw there were people of great size. [33] We also saw the Nephilim there [demigods/fallen angels], the offspring of giants. We felt like grasshoppers, and that is how they saw us, too.”

Numbers 14

[1] The entire assembly screamed and wept that night. [2] All the Israelites complained about Moses and Aaron, telling them, “If only we had died in the land of Egypt or in this desert! [3] Why would God bring us to this land, only to have us die by the sword, our wives and children becoming prey? Wouldn’t it be better to return to Egypt?” [4] They said to one another, “Let’s appoint a chief and go back to Egypt.”

[7] . . . [Joshua and Caleb, two of the scouts] said to all the people, “The land through which we traveled and that we explored is a very, very good land. . . .” [10] Just as the entire assembly was about to stone [them], the glory of God appeared [28] [God said]: “. . . I will do to you exactly what I heard you say: [29] your carcasses will fall in this wilderness [30] You will not enter the land, except for Caleb . . . and Joshua” [33] “And your children will wander in the desert for forty years . . . [34] —one year for every day [that the scouts explored the land].”