



Victorious Or Vanquished, Determined By Your Verdict

Numbers 13:27-33

27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this *is* the fruit of it.

28 Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Joshua 14:6-12

6 Then the children of Judah came unto Joshua in Gilgal: and Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite said unto him, Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadeshbarnea.

7 Forty years old *was* I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadeshbarnea to espy out the land; and I brought him word again as *it was* in mine heart.

8 Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God.

9 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.

10 And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while *the children of* Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, I *am* this day fourscore and five years old.

11 As yet I *am as* strong this day as *I was* in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength *was* then, even so *is* my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.

12 Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the LORD spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fenced: if so be the LORD *will be* with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said.

- I. We've heard the accounts of Israel in Egypt.
 - A. In this pulpit, I've conveyed them in many ways.
 - B. We've discussed the persecution.
 - C. We've examined the slavery.
 - D. We've typed and shadowed the taskmasters to the devils and sin.
 - E. We've learned about the plagues.
- F. We know about Passover and how it points us to Calvary.
 - G. We understand the significance of the blood, the leaven and the lamb.
 - H. We've been enthralled by the many ways of telling of the Exodus.
 - I. We've shouted with Israel.
 - I. Wept with Moses.
 - II. Scolded the murmurers.
 - III. Run through the red sea with the multitude.
 - J. We've stood on the mountain with Moses and felt the wind whip around us as God thundered
- His law.
 - K. We stood shocked and amazed as the tables were cast down and broken.
 - L. We've heard so much about manna we can almost taste it.
 - M. When the tabernacle was erected, we helped raise it.
 - N. We understand the details of the altar of sacrifice, laver of water, table of shewbread, golden candlestick, altar of incense and the Holiest of Holies.
 - O. How many of us try to warn Korah and his family not to rebel against Moses?
 - I. Then we mourn when the earth swallows them up.
 - P. Through the accounts in the scripture, we have experienced all this and more.
 - Q. What we need to do now is learn from those experiences.
 - I. We need to understand, we are either victorious or vanquished determined by our verdict.
- II. God made promises to Israel of victory.
 - A. He promised them land and blessings.

Genesis 12:1-2

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

- I. This is where the promises started for Israel.

Leviticus 20:24

24 But I have said unto you, Ye shall inherit their land, and I will give it unto you to possess it, a land that floweth with milk and honey: I *am* the LORD your God, which have separated you from *other* people.

II. God reiterated it many times.

Exodus 3:8

8 And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites

III. There are other scriptures proclaiming the promise of victory.

B. All Israel had to do was believe it and act on it.

C. There were those who did not believe the promises of God would come to them.

D. Read **Numbers 13:17-27**.

I. These men saw the fulfilled promises.

II. They carried the earnest of the inheritance on their shoulders.

III. They brought back a taste of what God prepared for them.

IV. Imagine the excitement in Israel as they saw with their own eyes what awaited them.

E. If they would have stopped right there, I believe the story would have been different than what we read.

F. However, the witnesses continued to speak...and this is what they said.

Numbers 13:28-29

28 Nevertheless the people *be* strong that dwell in the land, and the cities *are* walled, *and* very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

G. There was one who tried to squelch this negativism.

Numbers 13:30

30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

H. The line is drawn.

I. Who will they believe?

II. What will the people do?

Numbers 13:31-33

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they *are* stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, *is* a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it *are* men of a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, *which come* of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

I. The verdict of the people is in....we are not able to have what God promised.

I. Their verdict vanquished them to the wilderness for 40 years.

Numbers 14:32-34

32 But *as for* you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.

33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.

34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, *even* forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, *even* forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

III. What about Caleb?

A. He still had to wonder through the wilderness with them.

B. He too could not possess the promises of God while the vanquished lived.

C. But in his heart, he kept the verdict; “We are well able to overcome it.”

D. Listen to what the Lord said about Caleb;

Numbers 14:24

24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

E. Caleb had another spirit with him.

I. He had another verdict.

II. He did not see himself as a grasshopper.

III. He saw himself as a warrior.

F. I believe while Caleb wandered with the vanquished he was encouraging the next generation.

G. When the vanquished finally died off, Israel finds themselves back at Jordan ready to cross over and possess the promises.

H. The verdict of Caleb rippled through all of Israel.

I. The people finally became victorious by Caleb’s verdict; “we are well able...”

J. Re-read **Joshua 14:6-12**

I. The verdict is still there; “we are well able...”

IV. The challenge has gone forth to our church.

A. The battle lines are drawn.

B. We will be victorious or vanquished determined by our own verdict.