

## **Challenge of Unbelief Numbers 13-14**

### **I. Recruiting the Scouts - 13:1-16**

1. Lord directed Moses to select scouts – 1-3  
One from each tribe to explore the land  
They were to view the land before they entered  
Report back to the people, goodness of this land
2. Each representative listed by name - 4-16  
These men play important part in the future  
Opportunity to challenge people's faith  
Two stand out as ones who dared to believe  
Caleb from the Tribe of Judah - 6  
Joshua from the Tribe of Ephraim - 8

### **II. Reviewing the Land - 13:17-25**

1. Moses outlined their assignment - 17 - 20  
Consider people - strong/weak; few/many - 18  
Evaluate land – good/bad -19; fat/lean -20  
Note defenses - tents or strongholds - 19  
Note productivity - Bring back fruit of land - 20
2. Searched the land for 40 days - 21 - 25  
Wilderness of Zin to Rehob (south to north)  
Hebron given special note (children of Anak)  
Eshcol noted because of fruit found there

### **III. Report of Scouts - 13:26-33**

1. Majority report - 10 scouts - 26-29  
Land flows with milk & honey - look at fruit  
People are strong, cities walled, giants there  
Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites, Amorites,  
Canaanites
2. Minority Report - Caleb & Joshua - 30  
Let's go now & possess - well able to overcome
3. Majority Rebuttal - 10 spies - 31-33  
Not able to go - They are stronger than us  
The land is one that eats up its inhabitants  
Giants there make us look like grasshoppers

### **IV. Response of People - 14:1-10**

1. Fearfulness and lack of faith - 1-4  
They wept all night - 1  
They murmured against Moses & Aaron - 2  
Been better if we died in Egypt or the wilderness  
Let's select a leader & go back to Egypt – 3-4
2. Faithful counsel of God's leaders - 5-9  
Moses & Aaron plead – don't go back - 5  
Joshua & Caleb reaffirmed report – 6-8  
Rent their clothes in mourning  
Goodness of the land exceeds what God said  
Confidence that God would give them victory  
Urged them not to rebel against God - 9
3. Decision was to stone their leaders - 10

### **V. Response of God - 14:10-19**

1. God intervened to restrain people - 10

His glory appeared in tabernacle

People saw God's glory

Restrained from stoning their leaders

2. God is provoked by unbelief – 11-12  
What about all the miracles God had done  
Should they not lead them to believe  
He will destroy Israel, begin anew with Moses
3. Moses intercedes for the people - 13-19  
Integrity of God's reputation is at issue - 13-16  
What will the Egyptians say about God  
About your ability to do what you promised?  
Character of God seen in forgiveness - 17-19  
God is a God of mercy and grace  
Forgiveness is part of His glory

### **VI. Reaping Consequences - 14:20-45**

1. God will pardon their sin of unbelief - 20
2. They will reap the consequences – 21-38  
Choices often have consequences  
They would not enter into the land - 21-23  
Only Joshua and Caleb will possess it - 24  
Adult generation would die in wilderness - 25-30  
Children, for whom you feared, will enter in - 31-35  
Evil spies died of a plague – 36-37  
Only Joshua & Caleb will enter the land – 30-38
3. People mourned greatly – 39  
Was it true repentance  
Or mourning consequences

### **VII. Sin of Presumption – 14:40-45**

1. Acknowledged sin & decided to go - 40
2. Moses warned them not to go – 41-43  
This is not faith but presumption  
Did they now believe God's words?  
God will not be with you for you forsook Him
3. Went anyway & were defeated – 44-45  
Ark and Moses did not go with them