

Midrash *Sh'Lach Lecha* ("Send for Yourself") Numbers 13:1 – 15:41

God knew what was awaiting them in the Land, but Moses "sent them for himself" anyway

The 12 Spies

Numbers 13:1-24
& Deut 1:22-23

This was the turning point for Israel: failure meant 38+ more years!

One man from each tribe: Levi excluded
 Ephraim & Manasseh included

Their Objectives: See the People: Are they strong or weak?
 Are they few or many?

 See the Land: Is it good or bad?
 Walled cities or tents?
 Fat or lean?
 Wooded or not?
 And bring back some fruit

Explored the Negev in the South & all the way to Mt Herman in the North

"of the Tribe of Asher, S'tur...." סְטוּר "hidden" & contains סֵתֵר = "spy!"

$200 + 6 + 400 + 60 = 666$ (the only "666 name" in *Tanach*)

The Spies' Report

Numbers 13:25-33

Searched 40 days; Gave "Bad" Report on 9th of Av (5th month).

Other events occurring on 9th of Av in history:

1st Temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BC

2nd Temple destroyed by Titus in 70 AD

Destruction of *Bar Kochva's* army in 135 AD

1st Crusade (Pope Urban II) started in 1095

England expelled all Jews in 1290

Spain expelled all Jews in 1492 (Columbus)

World War I started in 1914

Hitler's "Final Solution" started in 1942

Gaza turned over to Palestinians on the 10th of Av in 2005

2 with Good report: Joshua (Ephraim) & Caleb (Judah)

Ezekiel 37:15-28

Bad Report of the 10: They are a strong people

Walled Cities

Children of *Anak*: Stronger
 Great Stature
 "Giants" (*Nephillim*)

Who are the *Nephillim*?

Genesis 6:1-9

Giants – How big are they?: Goliath - 9 Feet Tall

I Sam 17:4

Og King of Bashan – 14 Feet Tall

Deut 3:11

Amorites – Up to 135 Feet Tall!

Amos 2:9

God's instructions to Joshua

Deut 7:1-11

"And also after that,"

Num 13:33 & Dan 2:43

"In the days of Noah ..."

Matt 24:38 & Luke 17:26-30

"the thoughts of (men's) heart was only evil continually."

"In the days of Lot...."

Sodom's Sin: Condoning sexual perversion & immorality

The sin of the 10 was not just unbelief, but they also convinced others!

Israel's Rejection of God

God's reaction to Israel's rejection is very severe – just like at Golden Calf
Moses intercedes for the people – just like at the Golden Calf
(Connection to the Egyptian Plagues)

Numbers 14:1-38

verses 11-12

verses 13-19

The sentence: Death to 1st generation over the next 38 years
The 10 "Bad-Reporters" struck dead on the spot!

verse 29

verse 37

Israel tested God 10 times:

Numbers 14:22

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1) Exodus 14:11-12 | Doubted God at the Red Sea |
| 2) Exodus 15:22-24 | Complained at Bitter Waters of <i>Marah</i> |
| 3) Exodus 16:1-3 | Complained of no food in the Wilderness of Sin |
| 4) Exodus 16:20 | Left the manna until morning |
| 5) Exodus 16:27-8 | Tried gathering manna on Shabbat |
| 6) Exodus 17:1-3 | Complained of no water at <i>Rephadim</i> |
| 7) Exodus 32 | Worshipped the Golden Calf |
| 8) Numbers 11:1 | Rebelled against God's commandments at Sinai |
| 9) Numbers 11:4 | Lusted for meat |
| 10) Numbers 14:1-4 | Believed the spies' report at <i>Kadesh</i> |

Second Thoughts

Numbers 14:39-45

Israel launched an incursion into Canaan but is driven out
God was not with them!

The rest of the Exodus is "marching in place" while this first generation dies off.

The Offerings

Numbers 15:1-21

Gives instructions for the accompanying meal & drink offerings

Did Israel offer sacrifices during the Exodus? - and did God accept them?

Amos 5:18-27

Offerings for Unintentional Sins

Numbers 15:22-31

When the entire congregation sinned...perhaps "led astray" by the Priests...

Then Aaron made atonement for the entire congregation

Stoning the Shabbat-Breaker

Numbers 15:32-36

Death penalty for breaking ANY of God's Commandments

Not the same situation as Yeshua & Pharisees

They added to God's Law

The Fringes of Remembrance

Numbers 15:37-41

"Fringes" *tzi-tzit*

We are to Look, Remember & Do

James 1:23-24

...so, we do not follow our eyes & hearts

...our 10 "bad spies"!

The *tzi-tzit* is a symbol of authority: Saul & David
Yeshua & Pharisees
Woman with Issue of Blood

I Samuel 24:1-8

Matthew 23:5

Matt 9:18-26 & Mark 5:25-34

What the Rabbis say:

Numerical value of the word *tzi-tzit* is

600

One *tzi-tzit* consists of:

8 Cords

+ 5 Knots

... for a total of

613 Commandments in Torah

365 "Negative" Commandments ("Thou Shalt Not")

(One for each day of the year)

248 "Positive" Commandments ("Thou Shalt")

(Number of days remaining after all the

613

Shabbats & Holy Days are subtracted.)

This Portion starts and ends with the concept of "seeing" and "perceiving".

Haftarah:

Joshua 2:1-24

The 2nd Set of Spies into the Promised Land

Brit Chadashah:

Revelation 11:1-3

God's End-Time Judgment on Israel