

Paralysis in Paran: Rithmah

"And they departed from Hazeroth, and pitched at Rithmah, Numbers 33:18. And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and pitched in the wilderness of Paran," Numbers 12:16.



he last of the initial fourteen campsites was *Rithmah*. Had the people demonstrated faith instead of doubt, it would have marked the beginning of the conquest of Canaan itself. One of the meanings of *Rithmah* was "smoldering." Could this have been a reference to Yahweh's smoldering indignation over Israel's faithlessness in this place?

This was the encampment from which the twelve scouts were sent to "spy out the land." It was called *Rithmah* on this part of the journey; but was later referred to as *Kadesh Barnea*, only to be renamed as *Kadesh Rekem* in later Roman times. *Rithmah* was also later identified as Petra, located in southern Jordan on a modern map. In fact, Jewish historian, Josephus, says *Kadesh Barnea* was located at Petra around 1400 BC. The Treasury at Petra was carved by the Nabataeans in 100 BC and represents a reuse of the Hebrew city.¹⁷³

As has become common with the record of Israel's campsite locations, *Rithmah* or *Kadesh Barnea* is a site of controversy. In this fourteenth camp location, the trouble lies in determining whether these names refer to one campsite or two. This is because there is a discrepancy in the names for this fourteenth encampment between the Numbers Thirteen and Numbers Thirty-three accounts. But, as

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has been noted previously in this book, the only chapter which provides a complete listing of all the significant camps is Numbers Thirty-three. In fact, in Numbers Thirty-three there are seventeen camps mentioned which are not recorded anywhere else in the records of this journey.¹⁷⁴ Additionally, it is because of this record that we know there were forty-two significant encampments in Israel's wilderness wanderings. Thus, wherever there appears to be a discrepancy, we return to the Numbers Thirty-three account, using it as a "compass," to help us in identifying the name and order of each campsite.

Rithmah and *Kadesh* are not many miles apart, as some biblical historians suggest. Rather, this site was renamed to reflect the important events of later history which took place there. Because there was more than one name, getting a complete picture of Israel's lessons and experiences in this place can only be gained through noting the meanings of both the biblical names.

While *Rithmah* means "smoldering," *Kadesh* means "sanctuary,"¹⁷⁵ When Israel stayed at this site the first time, the "smoldering" picture applied. In their next encounter with Yahweh at this site, it would be a place of sanctuary.

At *Rithmah*, Yahweh was angry with Israel's doubt and cringing cowardice. After thirteen lesson-events to demonstrate Yahweh's protection, provision, and guiding care of His people, they were still mistrusting and fearful. It seemed they would never fully trust Him. The basis for this episode of faithlessness was the report by the majority of the scouts.

And the LORD spake unto Moses saying, Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the Children of Israel: of every tribe of their father's shall ye send a man, everyone a ruler among them. And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the Children of Israel, Numbers 13:1-3

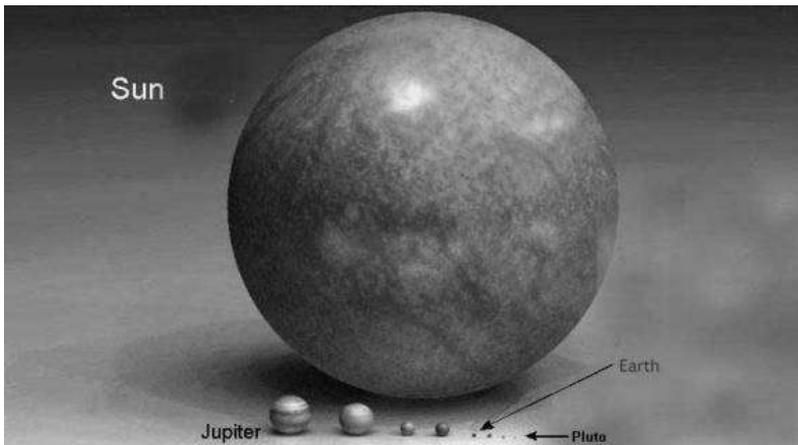
Let us consider the story of the spies and their report. Twelve trusted men, "elders," of Israel were sent to scout out the land, as recorded in

Numbers Twelve and Fourteen. Each tribe had chosen one of their own most gallant leaders to represent them in this party of surveyors. Perhaps each spy was to determine the portion of land for their tribe.

But while the twelve were all similarly chosen and sent out for the same purpose, their final reports were very different. Ten of the spies were discouraged by what they found in Canaan. Faith, which is defined as “visualizing what God intends to do in a given situation and acting in harmony with it,”¹⁷⁶ was far from their minds. Rather than keeping their spiritual eyes firmly upon Yahweh, the vision of these ten spies seemed blocked by giants. Having seen many of the giant sons of Anak roaming the Canaan land, these ten faithless scouts were actually worried that they could not (even with Yahweh’s help) conquer this earthly foe.

IDOLATRY FROM “EARTH-SIZING” GOD

Just for a moment, let us consider the foolishness of this faithless perspective. In order for us to fear earthly “giants,” we must have lost our comprehension of Yahweh. Fearing an earthly foe is about as silly as a paramecium in a scientist’s petri dish believing its protist predators are the most fearsome enemy in all the universe. And this viewpoint negates the fact that our Heavenly “Scientist,” in this analogy, has the power to obliterate anything in that dish in a single breath.



Thinking of our world and the creatures upon it from such a limited point of view causes us to “Earth-size” God. But, as the previous picture shows, our world, which astronauts have described as a “mote of dust,” is but a speck among Yahweh’s Creation, in our own solar system alone. Yet our solar star is one of an estimated one hundred billion, located within the Milky Way; a galaxy so vast it would take 100,000 years, traveling at the speed of light, to cross it. And our galaxy is but one among another hundred billion galaxies encompassing the known universe.¹⁷⁷ The God we worship is the Creator of all this. How foolish then that our problems becomes so large in our eyes that they seem to encompass the whole universe, surpassing the Creator’s might and power!

Actually such an earthly viewpoint is one of the worst and most dangerous forms of idolatry. By doubting Yahweh’s ability to deliver us from any foe, no matter how dark or demonic, we have unwittingly demonstrated a belief that this enemy’s power is greater than God’s.

This is why the Bible instructs us repeatedly to “fear not.” In fact, the command not to fear appears (in one form or another) in the Bible a total of three hundred and sixty-five times! That’s one “fear not” command for each day of the solar year.

For those who continue to walk in fear, despite all that Yahweh has promised and commanded, Canaan is an impossible goal. Like the Children of Israel, who could not enter physical Canaan because of their idolatrous fear of the giants, so those who are fearful in the end of time will come short of the glory of God. Ultimately, the fearful are the first ones cast into the Lake of Fire.

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He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and

idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death, Revelation 21:7-8.

In truth, Yahweh is not powerless to aid His people in facing the “giants.” In fact, He is all powerful! As the Bible tells us in numerous ways and places, Yahweh is Almighty. He is the One in charge of our lives. And He will deliver His people, if they will trust Him.

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear, Isaiah 59:1.

God is in the midst of her (His people) she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: He uttered His Voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. . . He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; He burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge, Psalm 46:10-11.

In light of this, there is no factual basis for Yahweh’s people to fear an enemy. Rather the temptation to fear is born of a distorted perspective which reduces Yahweh in our eyes, until we have “Earth-sized” Him, while magnifying our adversaries.

THE FAITHFUL TWO

This idolatrous and distorted perspective held the ten spies paralyzed with fear. They admitted to the multitude that Canaan was a “goodly” land which did indeed “flow with milk and honey,” a Hebrew idiom expressing its agricultural richness. And then came the “but”...

Nevertheless (But) 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 (the giants) there, Numbers 13:28.



Listening to the faithless testimony of the ten spies describing seemingly “insurmountable” obstacles, “unconquerable” cities, and “undefeatable” giants, the multitude began to panic. Crying bitter tears of faithless disappointment, men and women sobbed, “We wish we had died in

Egypt. It would even have been better to die in the wilderness!” This terrible statement revealed that the Children of Israel considered the fate of those judged by fire, sword, and plague to be preferable to that of those who had pressed on to obtain the promise! Shouting to be heard over the despairing din, Caleb, one of only two faithful witnesses, cried out, “Let us go immediately and take this land.” He pointed out that in Yahweh’s might, they were well able to possess it.

Caleb and Joshua, encouraged the Israelites to advance, by faith. Grieved at the faithless testimony of the ten spies and the credibility they held over the encampment, these two tore their clothes and cried out for the people to remember Who it was that lead them.

And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not, Numbers 14:6-9.

What will be the outcome when final Israel reaches the “borders” of spiritual Canaan? Will possessing it appear any less intimidating to the eyes of flesh? Clearly the Children of Israel had expected an “easy street” victory. But, is it any different today? Most Christians today

expect to glide into the Kingdom without any major trials, without any real sacrifices, and without any of the foretold feats of faith. In attitude and belief, they foolishly say, “Sure, it will get a little bad, but we’ll just watch it all on the evening news from the comforts of our living rooms. It isn’t really going to get THAT bad. Don’t be an alarmist.”

To demonstrate this commonly held viewpoint, consider the reaction of many Christians to the recent hyper-inflation of the United States dollar. When the U.S. economy took a dive in 2009, many expressed the belief that the time of trouble was upon us. According to such ones, what actually effected as little more than an economic inconvenience was proof that we were entering the final 1260 days of the most extreme trouble ever to come to planet earth! But how can a period the Bible calls a time of trouble “such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time” (Daniel 12:1), be discussed over sumptuous dinner tables, in comfortable homes, while watching the goings-on via CNN?

“... The giants which will attempt to prevent us from entering the Kingdom will be no less formidable than those which the Children of Israel faced long ago.”

THE “VIOLENT” TAKE IT BY
“FORCE”

These events are merely another indication that the “actors” have taken their places. But the final curtain is yet to open and the closing events are yet to come. Ultimately the “giants” which will attempt to prevent us from entering the Kingdom will be no less formidable than those which the Children of Israel faced long ago. And our spiritual “conquest” of ultimate Canaan will be no less an outgrowth of living faith.

In the well-known classic, *Pilgrim’s Progress*, John Bunyan likened the process of entering the Kingdom of Heaven to courageous soldiers taking a well-guarded castle.

“Interpreter took him (Christian) again by the hand, and led him into a pleasant place, where was built a stately palace, beautiful to behold; at the sight of which Christian was greatly delighted. He saw also upon the top thereof certain persons walking, who were clothed all in gold.



Then said Christian may we go in thither?

Then the Interpreter took him, and led him up towards the door of the palace; and behold, at the door stood a great company of men, as desirous to go in, but durst (dared) not. There also sat a man at a little distance from the door, at a table-side, with a book and his inkhorn before him, to take the names of them that should enter therein. He saw also that in the doorway stood many men in armor to keep it, being resolved to do to the men that would enter, what hurt and mischief they could.

Now was Christian somewhat in amaze(ment). At last, when every man started back for fear of the armed men, Christian saw a man of a very stout countenance come up to the man that sat there to write, saying, “Set down my name, sir;” the which when he had done, he saw the man draw his sword, and put a helmet on his head, and rush towards the door upon the armed men, who laid upon him with deadly force; but the man, not at all discouraged, fell to cutting and hacking most fiercely.

So after he had received and given many wounds to those that attempted to keep him out, he cut his way through them all, and pressed forward into the palace; at which there was a pleasant voice heard from those

that were within, even of those that walked upon the top of the palace, saying, “Come in, come in, Eternal glory thou shalt win”¹⁷⁸

This is exactly what the Saviour meant when He said that only the “violent,” or those who “press themselves toward, seize, and suffer violence” for it, would take the Kingdom of Heaven. He added that it would be taken by “force,” which means “to seize.”

... The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force, Matthew 11:12.

Indeed, this kind of intense struggle is exactly what the end-time Children of Israel must pass through, if they will gain the Kingdom of Yahweh.

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God, Acts 14:22.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses, 1 Timothy 6:12.

But the good news, which Caleb and Joshua knew, as they encouraged ancient Israel to enter and conquer the land, is that it is Yahweh’s Will for us to gain this victory! And this knowledge and assurance makes all the difference in whether we’ll quail in fear or conquer by faith.

“... Seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the Kingdom,” Luke 12:31-32.

NOT ONE IN A MILLION

In spite of the obstacles or the size of the foe, the Heavenly Father has promised to bear us on “Eagle’s Wings” into ultimate Canaan, just as

He had assured Israel of old. But how many will trust Him to carry them through the persecuting “giants” of the last days?

In the shadow-picture of ancient Israel’s doubting at *Rithmah*, we see that only two of the twelve witnesses had faith. And the multitude, now estimated to number at nearly three million, listened to the faithless spies, even threatening to stone Caleb and Joshua for encouraging them to take the land, in the face of such formidable odds.

Sadly, few had the faith it would take to conquer the Promised Land. And because they could not trust in Yahweh for the victory, they could not possess Canaan.

Another generation would one day return to the borders of the Promised Land. They would take Canaan through the power of Yahweh. In fact, in a type of the fall of final Babylon, Jericho, the most formidable enemy city, fell to

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the courageous band who attacked it in Heavenly praise! But in that victorious company, only two from the original band, now bordering Canaan, would live to be a part: Caleb and Joshua. All the idolatrous doubters would have to return to the wilderness, which would indeed claim their lives after all.

How sobering to realize that not one in a million was ready to face the Canaan “giants.” Thus, only two would ultimately taste the

victory and possess the land. This is a warning to us in the last days.

"And shall not God avenge His own elect, which cry day and night unto Him...? I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:7-8.

TONGUES OF DOUBT

How can we prepare to stand with the faithful few, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds? Like Caleb and Joshua of old, we need to speak the Word of Promise instead of listening to the tongues of doubt. We must not take a moment to consider the counsel born of idolatrous disbelief. This was ancient Israel's undoing.

So powerful was the doubting testimony on the multitude, that the effect of the fearful destroyed the testimony of faith. Speaking doubt always destroys faith in the Scripturally ungrounded many.

Because the Children of Israel believed the testimony of the faithless, they came to be in bondage at the very border of ultimate freedom. One meaning of the word "*Rithmah*" is "the place of bonds," for it was here that the people fell into the bondage of unbelief.¹⁷⁹

"Those who do not believe Yahweh is able to overcome the 'giants' in their lives, will never possess the land."

Similarly, "*Rithmah*" refers to the Hebrew idiom "coals of juniper." For "*Rithmah*" also means "the place of junipers," because the doubting tongues of the ten spies brought the evil report, and were hence like the "coals of juniper," which burn extremely hot.¹⁸⁰ The Psalmist warned of the danger of listening to such burning speech.

Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue. What shall be given unto thee? Or what shall be done unto thee, thou false tongue? Sharp arrows of the mighty, with coals of juniper, Psalms 120:2-4.

The doubt-filled report rendered by the ten provides a sure example of the fact: Faith does not come from experience: faith comes by "hearing" the Word of the Lord (Rom. 10:15). Spiritually speaking, that hearing is more than mental cognition! It is hearing with the purpose of treasuring and doing what was heard. Those who do not believe Yahweh is able to overcome the "giants" in their lives, will never possess the land. Doubt, negative thinking, mistrust, unbelief, and lack of faith are terms of destruction to the upward and onward influence of the few.

We rarely distinguish between doubt and unbelief. But the doubt expressed in Matthew 14:31, "*O ye of little faith, why did you doubt?*" and the unbelief mentioned in Mark 6:6 "*And He marveled because of their unbelief,*" are not the same thing. According the definitions of these words given in Vine's *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*. "Doubt" (*distazo*), means "to stand in two ways," and implies "uncertainty of which way to go." Unbelief (*apeitheta*), on the other hand, is defined as "disobedience," as is referenced in Romans 11:30.¹⁸¹

But the Word of Scripture, spoken in faith, will vanquish the demonic power of doubt and unbelief in our hearts. In the book, *Battlefield of the Mind*, author Joyce Meyer tells the experience of a man who was given the spiritual eyesight to witness this fact, while quoting promises and praying for divine healing.

"After (the man) had gone through a hard time and was beginning to get discouraged, God opened his eyes to the spirit world. This is what he saw: a demon speaking lies to him, telling him that he was not going to get healed and that confessing the Word was not going to work. But he also saw that each time he confessed the Word,

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light would come out of his mouth like a sword, and the demon would cower and fall backward. As God showed him this vision, the man then understood why it was so important to keep speaking the Word. He saw that he did have faith, which is why the demon was attacking him with doubt."¹⁸²

Yet, so long as we refuse to take God at His Word by faith, we do not wield the sword of the Word. Thus, unbelief triumphs and we are spiritually vanquished. As we have seen, "*Rithmah*" means "smoldering," and "the place of bonds," or bondage of unbelief.¹⁸³ In this light Galatians 5:1 (don't be entangled in a yoke of bondage) takes on new meaning. Unbelief **is** bondage; **unbelief is sin**, and it is "unto death!"¹⁸⁴

Charles Spurgeon had much to say about unbelief. Here are a few of his choice statements that are worthy of pondering as we seek victory over unbelief:

"Unbelief is a chameleon; it may even appear as an angel of light. (*It can even manifest as a false*) humility, which says, "I cannot be saved; I am too great a sinner."

"A fearful form of unbelief is that doubt which keeps men from coming to Christ; which leads the sinner to distrust the ability of Christ to save him."

"The least unbelief is of the same nature as the greatest." "Unbelief is the firstborn child of Satan."¹⁸⁵

Satan is a liar and the father of it (John 8:44)! He lurks in the desert to lure Yahweh's people into the Dungeon of Doubt. We must beware! A precious promise against unbelief and doubt is found in Romans Chapter Four. Joyce Meyer recommends reading Romans 4:18-21 whenever we feel like waffling.¹⁸⁶

(Abraham) who against hope (in human reasoning) believed in hope (in the promise), that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, SO SHALL THEY

SEED BE. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not (wavered not) at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. And being fully persuaded that what He had promised, He was able also to perform, Romans 4:18-21.

If you fear the Lord, you will be free from the fear of your enemies; if you forget the Lord, you will be brought under the fear of men.¹⁸⁷

JUDGMENTS AGAINST DOUBT

Once our belief in Yahweh and His Word is overcome by doubt, not even a miracle can restore our faith. This was amply demonstrated with ancient Israel. In just about a year's time, they had witnessed Yahweh perform every kind of miracle in abundant demonstration of His watchcare and provision! They had seen:

- Yahweh controlling and changing nature
- Yahweh healing a fatal disease
- Yahweh providing sustenance out of nothing
- Yahweh protecting when in danger
- Yahweh demonstrating evidence of His presence

If we had seen so many spectacular deliverances in a lifetime as they had witnessed in that year, would we have been so faithless? No wonder Yahweh was thoroughly disgusted with the whole lot! Thus, He judged them for heeding the tongues of doubt. And the judgment was that Canaan would forever elude their grasp. This is the righteous sentence against all the faithless in every generation.

*When you are
tempted to "waffle,"
in your faith, read
Romans 4:18-21.*

Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey—I will bring them in, and they shall know the land which you have rejected.

But as for you, your corpses shall fall in this wilderness. And your sons shall be shepherds for forty years in the wilderness, and they shall suffer for your unfaithfulness, until your corpses lie in the wilderness, according to the number of days which you spied out the land, forty days, for every day you shall bear your guilt a year, even forty years, and you shall know My opposition. I the LORD have spoken, surely this I will do to all this evil congregation who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be destroyed, and there they shall die, Numbers 14:30-37.

Our God is not playing games with us. When He has worked with us, revealed Himself to us, and spoken His promises to us through His Word, if we still choose to listen to demonic doubt, we have committed the unpardonable sin.

It is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost. And have tasted the good Word of God, and the powers of the world to come., If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame, Hebrews 6:4-6.

THE GIANTS BLOCKING CANAAN'S PATHWAY

So what “giants” block our pathway to Canaan? What obstacles must we overcome through faith in Yahweh’s power? The end-time enemy will manifest both globally and personally.

Globally, we will be facing the New World Order lead by the Beast power and the Whore of Babylon. Already the globalists are working to dominate the world through the control of the money and banks, through domination of the political powers, and through control of the global food supplies and resources. We have been amply warned that these final powers will seek to control mankind politically, religiously, morally, socially, economically, and in every possible way. Those who reject this domination, in order to honor Yahweh and remain true to His *Torah*, will face an enemy that is determined to

stop at nothing. This will make up one of the most formidable of end-time foes.

The second form these final “giants” take will be more personal in nature. Any unconfessed, unsundered sin is a “giant” which will truly block us from admittance to the Heavenly Canaan.

In order to gain insight for our own conquest of Canaan, let us prayerfully consider the examples of those who overcame, or fell to “giants” that seemed unconquerable. In reviewing two key examples, we will amply see that “Great men are not always wise...”¹⁸⁸ Yet in those who gained the victory, we will note that it was through God’s defense that they were enabled to stand in the evil day. The victors searched the Scriptures and found in them the power to conquer.

The “giants” of temptation are not new. In fact, they have attacked Yahweh’s people in all past generations. These temptations attacking believers in every age are called “common,” as it says in 1 Corinthians 10:13. In verses 6-11, there are five common temptations:

- lusting after that which is evil
- idolatrously eating, drinking, and seeking pleasure
- fornication
- tempting Christ by unbelief
- murmuring, chiding, complaining, and finding fault

These “common” temptations can be sorted into three categories, which encompass all areas of sin. The categories of temptation are listed in 1 John 2:15-16: lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and pride of life.

There are three categories which encompass all areas of sin: lust of the flesh, lust of the eye, and the pride of life.

In Genesis 3:1-6 we find Adam and Eve being tempted in all three areas simultaneously. Eve saw that the Tree was “good for food,” (lust of the flesh) and was “pleasant to the eyes,” (lust of the eyes).

This was similar to the lust manifested by the Children of Israel at *Kibroth*

Hattaavah, when they longed for the foods Yahweh had not provided, even though they were well-fed and nourished by His Heavenly provision. Next, Eve desired the tree because the serpent promised it would make her wise like God. This was a temptation in the “pride of life” category. Tempted in all three areas, and without meeting the temptation through the pure Word of Yahweh by faith, Eve harbored doubt.

Matthew 4:1-11 shows Yahshua being tempted in all three areas. But, where these “giants” successfully vanquished Eve, the Saviour gained the victory.

- Lust of the flesh – manifested as a temptation to turn the stones into bread in order to prove Yahshua’s divinity and satisfy His hunger, outside of submission to Yahweh’s provision.
- Lust of the eye - came in the form of a temptation to force God’s Hand by Yahshua casting Himself from the pinnacle of the Temple. When the angels revealed themselves and He floated harmlessly down in plain sight (which by the way was according to a Jewish tradition of how the Messiah would manifest), everyone would believe in Him. Thus, He would gain success and acceptance having presumptuously stepped out of God’s Will, and having forced a Divine intervention.
- Pride of life – was the category in the temptation to gain the kingdoms of the earth the easy way. Rather than having to go through the agony and humiliation of the Cross, the devil promised to give it all willingly to Christ, if He would only bow down and worship the enemy.

KEYS FOR THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN

Like Eve and Yahshua, we also will face these three giants. And our ultimate victory or defeat in this confrontation will determine our fitness for the Kingdom. Take heed, then, to the giants which will attempt to prevent our entry into Canaan. The Saviour’s victory and strength will be ours, if we stand in the power of the Word by faith, as He did.

But faith is not merely a statement of belief. Living faith is demonstrated by works. Here are some keys for living by faith, after the Pattern demonstrated in the life of the Saviour and others who have followed His victorious Example:

- 1) If we would have victory over the “giants” of temptation, we must pray.

Matthew 6:13 "Pray daily, "...lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil..."

Luke 22:40; Matthew 26:41 "Pray that ye enter not into temptation."

- 2) When Yahshua was tempted by the Devil, He quoted the Word, which was hidden in His heart (memorized and engrafted). To be victorious, we will do the same.

"Submit your thoughts and imaginations to Yahweh. Do not allow yourself to dwell in unholy thinking."

Psalms 119: 9-11 "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word. With my whole heart have I sought Thee: O let me not wander from Thy Commandments. Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might (have strength to) not sin against Thee."

3) Submit your thoughts and imaginations to Yahweh. Do not allow yourself to dwell in unholy thinking. Rather, exercise the Heavenly Weapons (quote engrafted Scripture, pray, read the Bible aloud, sing praises,

share your testimony, verbalize the ways Yahweh has blessed you, etc.) in full resistance to every ungodly thought. If we don't gain Heavenly control over every imagination and thought, they will eventually become our reality!

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 "...Casting down every imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. And bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

- 4) Prayerfully surrender your presumptuous willfulness, defiance, arrogance and irreverence. Ask Yahweh to give strength to "keep back" from these temptations. Thus, you will not fall to a giant, "great transgression."

Psalms 19:13 "Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression."

- 5) Choose to meditate on and speak words of faith, in accordance to Yahweh's Word. And pray for Heavenly strength to empower this choice.

Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my Redeemer."

Proverbs 4:23-24 "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee."

Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

- 6) Make no "provision" to fall into sin. This means that you should wisely and prayerfully avoid places and situations which could make it more difficult to resist temptation.

Romans 13:14 "But put ye on the Lord (Yahshua) Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."

- 7) Daily submit your life and will to Yahweh, yielding to Him so fully that you count yourself dead to sin and alive unto God. Pray to develop a hatred for sin. Then live with the realization that your talents, time, possessions, and even personal being are Yahweh's. As such, they are always used only for His glory.

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Romans 6:11-13 "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through (Yahshua) Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God."

- 8) Live by meekness, by remaining ever submitted under godly authority. Remember that the opposite of humble submission is a haughty spirit and pride, like thinking, "You've messed with MY possessions... infringed on "MY time... damaged MY reputation." Watch for areas of wrath. Anger indicates a part of our life that isn't completely submitted to God.

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Ecclesiastes 7:9 "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."

- 9) With your spiritual eyesight focused upon Christ, continually work to honor and serve Yahweh. In other words, STAY BUSY for God! Idleness will give opportunity for your flesh to arise as it did for King David with Bathsheba.

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin

which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto (Yahshua) the Author and Finisher of our faith. Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the Throne of God."

- 10) Finally, keep your focus and faith directed upon Yahweh. He is the only One Who is able to keep you from falling (Jude 1:24).

Psalm 31:23-24 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD; and he delighteth in His way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with His Hand."

“Yield not to temptation
For yielding is sin.
Each victory will help you
Some other to win.
Fight manfully onward,
Dark passions subdue.
Look ever to (Yahshua),
He will carry you through.”¹⁸⁹

For those who will stand by faith, empowered by Heaven, both the personal and global “giants” of the last days will be powerless to prevent them from gaining Canaan at last. Like Caleb and Joshua, who quoted from the promises of the Word, Yahweh’s last-day saints will face impossible odds, trusting fully in God. Let us be among the faithful few who will conquer where others quail and stand courageous when others fail. God’s promises are sure. And may we never reach the borders of Canaan only to be found unfit, and be turned back at last. Rather, let us go forth and seek His Kingdom, by faith. Thus, it will be won, for He has promised.

*“... Let us go forth
and seek His
Kingdom, by faith.
Thus, it will be won,
for He has
promised.”*

But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto His Voice; (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) He will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which He swore unto them, Deuteronomy 4:29-31.



SUMMARY OF CHAPTER FOURTEEN:

- *Rithmah*, was Israel's fourteenth encampment, located on the border of Canaan. Meaning "smoldering" and "the place of bonds," this campsite was named for Israel's unbelief that Yahweh could empower them to conquer Canaan as He had promised. Here the multitude provoked God to smoldering wrath and fell into the bondage of idolatrous doubt.
- At its essence, doubt is one of the most dangerous forms of idolatry. By fearing any earthly foe and doubting Yahweh's power to be victorious, we have demonstrated a belief that the enemy's power is greater than God's.
- When the twelve spies returned from looking over the land of Canaan, ten feared the "giants" and well-fortified cities. Their doubting words were heeded by the multitude. We should never speak words of unbelief, for in so doing we may undermine the faith of others.
- Yahweh's end-time people will also face "giants," that are humanly formidable foes. Canaan will only be gained by those who demonstrate the living faith to conquer these enemies. Those who fail to gain this victory in faith will find Canaan unattainable, as the "violent" take it by "force." Thus, we must fight the good fight of faith, that we may grasp the pro-offered crown.