

**02/26/06 – “ISRAEL & THE SPIES –  
PROMISE, PRINCIPLE, PROBLEM, PROVISION”**

**We are called to slay giants** – Every person has a giants to slay and must come to grips that God leads us into battle

Too often we are timid about our faith – **We haven’t been given a spirit of timidity but of power, love and discipline** – 2Timothy 1:7

We have been called to make disciples of all nations, to go out and bear much fruit for the Lord and His glory – Matthew 28, John 15

**Is that for someone else to do? - We believe it but how many of us do it? – Is there a difference in what we believe and what we do?**

Wayward Israel refused to enter the land promised to the descendants of Abraham, wandering in wilderness until those over age 20 died

**For them the exodus became a journey without a destination - What are we supposed to learn from this?**

**PROMISE, PRINCIPLE, PROBLEM, PROVISION**

The **promise is the covenant** that was given to Abraham – **God sets the terms** – You and I do not negotiate or haggle over the terms

Promise to Abraham and his descendants, Joseph last words Gen. 50:24, *take my bones to the land which God has promised* – **Died in faith**

**God’s promise is irrefutable, immutable and “absolute bedrock”** – His covenant is “bigger” than our feelings, emotions or circumstances

God will never leave you or forsake is an absolute promise - **If there’s a problem, it’s never at His end** – He is forever faithful

**God’s promise may seem impossible** – Israel had to endure ten generations of slavery for a promise yet to be realized – “Unbelievable”

**God’s covenant should give us peace in any situation...to never doubt that He is with you... forever our Lord and Savior**

**PRINCIPLE**

The **principle is that a believer’s faith will be rewarded** – Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness

**God wants to take us further than we are desiring to go** – We’re the clay, He’s the Potter...God knows where He is taking us

A theology that prioritizes personal feelings over faithfulness and obedience to God will not bring us into the land

**“And without faith it is impossible to please Him...must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”** – Heb. 11:6

**If He rewards those who diligently seek Him, why do we hold back? - Faith pleases God**

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen – Heb. 11 – He promises and we walk by principle of faith

**EVERYONE HAS PROBLEMS...**

**Problems are the obstacles between vision and reality – They are many and varied...problems are very real but not insurmountable**

Israel had problems of the hostile desert, fierce enemies, a perilous future of fighting giants and seizing fortified cities

**What about our problems? – Has God asked us to do that which can’t be done? – Whom He calls He also equips!**

There are only two that would enter the land...Joshua and Caleb demonstrated incredible courage and faith in the midst of adversity and fear

Joshua and Caleb “took their stand...**“we are able, Surely God will go before us. God will give us the land”**...but to no avail

Israel’s unbelief meant Joshua and Caleb would have to wait 38 years to enter the land yet they never wavered in their faith

**Israel chose not to remember Red Sea parting, drowning of Egyptian army, water from the rock, bread from heaven...so many miracles forgotten**

Two years prior God had rescued His people from the mightiest military power of ancient time, and still rejected God’s promise

**Fear, unbelief and rebellion only creates more problems – Trust and obedience in God’s sovereign ability is key to overcoming**

**PROVISION**

**Provision is the land...they were being trained and equipped to fight in order to possess the land God promised to them**

**The Promised Land is not heaven** – The land is our lives right now – **He gives us life and life more abundantly to fight the good fight**

If Christian life is supposed to be free of conflict, why do we need to put on the full armor of God - helmet of salvation, breastplate of righteousness,

feet shot with gospel of peace, shield of faith, loins girded with truth, sword of the Spirit? – Why do I need all that? – **To fight the battle!**

No one knows what kind of giants we’ll be facing, but **spiritual giants can’t be defeated with our natural abilities**

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, but the fear of man brings a snare – “...with the fear of the Lord are riches, honor and life.” – Prov. 22:4

**Caleb and Joshua had faith in God despite overwhelming and incredible odds...of a different spirit – “Followed the Lord fully”**

Thirty-eight years later, Caleb and Joshua would lead Israel into Promised Land and possess their inheritance...amazing examples to follow

**They believed the promise, walked by principle of faith, overcame the problems and realized God’s provision** - Joshua 1:1-9, Joshua 14:6-15