

**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