

## The Sending of the Twelve Spies (Deut. 1:19–46)

*According to Deut. 1:22–23, it was the people's idea to send out the spies, but in Num. 13:1–2 God commanded doing so. Moses thought sending out spies was a good idea (Deut. 1:35), but it did not end well for most of them (1:34–38).*

### I. INSIGHT

- .. **The basic insight was that the Lord had given Israel the land** (Deut. 1:8, 21).
  - .. So Moses commanded the people to go and possess it (1:21).
  - .. This insight was reaffirmed by Moses (1:29–31) again after the people turned from it.
    - .. Moses reminded the people of the Exodus and God's leading in the wilderness (1:30–31).
- .. **The people disbelieved and rejected this insight** (1:26–28, 32–33) because of the negative details.
  - .. After God rejected them (1:34–40), they tried to act, but God was not with them (1:41–46).

### D. DETAILS

- .. **There were more negative details (1:28) than positive ones (1:25).**
- .. The spies were sent to gather details about the land for planning purposes (1:22).
  - .. But the reported details led to the rejection of the planned conquest.
- .. The detailed list of spies in Num. 13:4–16 is not repeated in Deuteronomy chapter one.
  - .. The report of the spies (Deut. 1:25) and the refusal of the people is stressed (Deut. 1:26–28).

### E. ENERGY, ENTHUSIASM

- .. **The people were discouraged by the negative details** (1:28).
  - .. They should have been encouraged by remembering the Lord's past leading (1:33).
  - .. Unlike this, David was not discouraged by the giant or his brothers.
- .. **The basic problem was unbelief** (1:32, Heb. 3:10–19).
  - .. Disbelief is the chief reason people lack motivation today as well.
  - .. Their discouragement was like low moral in military units today.
  - .. It is still important to believe in the rightness and possibility of the cause.

### A. ASSURANCE

- .. **Past leading and victories should have given the people assurance** (1:30–33).
  - .. There was more than one example / proof of God's leading and protection.
  - .. This was like David remembering being delivered from the lion and the bear (1 Sam. 17:36).
- .. **Apparently the people wrongly looked for assurance through the spies report.**
  - .. The spies report in Josh. 2:24 was reassuring, but in Deut. 1:25–28 the report was mixed.
  - .. God's promises are sure (Deut. 1:8), but the opinions of men are not.

**application:** 1.) *trust in the Lord's plan and promises and 2.) remember his past leading and protection.*

