

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1992



In search of the Promised land

"How many scouts have been seen?" Moses asked his brother. "All 12!" Aaron smiled.

More than a month had passed, since Moses had chosen 12 men one from each of the tribes of Israel - to go into the Promised Land. The rest of the Hebrews were still camped in the desert.

By the time the scouts arrived, an eager crowd had already gathered, anxious for news.

"Are there flowing rivers for water and luxurious trees for shade?" they asked. "Is the land fer- . tile so we can grow tasty food?"

Moses motioned for silence. "Give them a chance to speak." He turned to the scouts and asked, "You have found a good land?"

"The soil is very rich," Done of them replied. "Taste how sweet these grapes are." 'Delicious!" Moses agreed,

and the crowd applauded.

"But it's not all good news," another scout added sadly. "The people there live in a town with fortified walls," he explained. "Next to them, we felt as insignificant as grasshoppers!"

"We would never win if we attacked these giants!" the man continued in his gloomy account. "And these people may come here and destroy us!"

"Why did we ever leave Egypt?" someone cried. "Better to serve as Pharaoh's slaves than to die!"

"Stop your grumbling!" Caleb, another scout shouted. "You have forgotten God's promise! Let's go and take possession of Canaan!"

"Caleb is right!" Joshua added. "It is a good land I have seen."

"Then you go there with Caleb and perish!" the crowd challenged. "Stop being afraid and trust

Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

God!" Moses velled.

The Hebrews continued to murmur, and Moses went off to pray.

"These people have seen my miracles and still they don't believe. I am going to kill them all with a plague!" God told him.

"No, Lord!" Moses cried. "If you do so, our enemies will say that you have broken your promise."

Moses continued to pray until God said, "I will forgive them, But, because they broke faith, not one of those who first left Egypt, except for Caleb and Joshua, will enter Canaan ---- only their descendants."

Read More About It: Book of Numbers, Chapters 13 & 14.

1. What made Caleb and Joshua different from the other scouts sent by Moses? 2. What can you do when you

are afraid of something?

Bilhah



• 1526 B.C.

Pharaoh fears there are so many Hebrews that they will overthrow him. He issues a cruel law that all Hebrew baby boys must be killed at birth. Moses' parents hide him in a basket and place it in the Nile River. Pharaoh's daughter finds the baby and raises Moses in Pharaoh's palace.



• 1446 B.C. God speaks to Moses from a burning bush on Mount Sinai: "Moses, I want you to lead my people out of Egypt to a new

home."

God forgives the Hebrews. They build a portable "tent church" called a Tabernacle to carry with them as they continue toward Canaan. God uses a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to lead the Hebrews.



1405 B.C. The Hebrews arrive in the Promised Land after 40 years

1445 B.C. God gives Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. But the people break their covenant with God by worshipping a golden bull.

Egypt.

Jacob

(Israel)

• 1446 B.C. releases the Hebrews after God sends 10 plagues on

Rachel

Stubborn Pharaoh finally





"An unreliable messenger causes trouble. But those who can be trusted bring peace!"

Proverbs 13:17.



Catholic Courier

12