

# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## Old Testament 3

### Law/Gospel

I do not always believe God's promises; instead, I grumble and am afraid. **God, who always keeps His promises, kept His promise to send His Son to save me from my sin through His sacrifice on the cross.**

### Bible Words

Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made . . . had failed; all came to pass. Joshua 21:45

### The Big Picture

Why were the Israelites in Egypt?

- Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt as a teen.
- God was with Joseph and gave him the ability to interpret dreams, including Pharaoh's dream that foretold seven good years of crops followed by seven bad years of famine.
- When Joseph was 30, Pharaoh put him in charge of efforts to survive the famine.
- Two years into the famine, Joseph's father, Israel (Jacob), and his whole family moved to Egypt to live on land Pharaoh gave them.
- A later Pharaoh who did not know Joseph enslaved the Israelites.
- More than 400 years after entering Egypt, the Israelites were brought out by God in the exodus.

## The Twelve Spies in Canaan

Numbers 13–14

**A**fter God delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He led them to the border of the Promised Land of Canaan.

A little over a year later, the Israelites prepared to enter the promised Land and drive out its current inhabitants. God promised victory, but the people wanted to know what to expect. With God's permission, Moses sent twelve spies to check out the crops, people, cities, and fortifications.

The spies returned with a mixed report. The land was beautiful, but its people were large, strong, and fierce. Many lived in walled cities. Ten spies said there was no way to take the land. Two spies, Caleb and Joshua, urged the people to trust the Lord and go forward.

Sadly, the people listened to the fearful spies. This rebellion kindled God's anger, and He said everyone age 20 and older would die in the desert except Joshua and Caleb, who would lead the younger generation into the land. This kept Israel in the wilderness for forty years.

Through these Israelites, God saved us from our dreaded enemies of sin, death, and the devil. Mary, an Israelite, birthed the Lord's own Son and our Savior. At God's command, she named Him Jesus because "He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). *Jesus* and *Joshua* are the same name in Hebrew, *Jeshua*, which means "to rescue, save, or deliver."

### Who were the Canaanites?

Canaanites descended from Canaan, son of Ham and grandson of Noah. They fished, hunted, farmed, built ships, and produced a written language. Sadly, they also worshiped many false gods, called *Baals*.

Other groups in the land included descendants of Anak, a race of giants whose appearance frightened the Israelites. Goliath, the Philistine giant that David defeated, descended from Anak (1 Samuel 17:4, 23).

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross and rising from the dead to save us from sin, death, and the devil. Amen.*

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