

THE DESIRE FOR EXEMPTION FROM ALL STRUGGLE AND CONFLICT WITH
DANGEROUS ENEMIES ON OUR JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND

In Numbers 13 the Lord told Moses to send twelve men to spy out the land of Canaan. When the men returned, they told Moses and the people that the land was flowing with milk and honey, but that the inhabitants were strong, the cities large and well-fortified, and there were giants in the land. In Numbers 14 we read that the congregation wept that night, complained bitterly against Moses and Aaron, and wanted to elect a new leader and return to Egypt. When Joshua and Caleb tried to encourage them to trust in God and go on to victory, the people wanted to stone them!

Better to live in slavery than to die fighting for freedom! Better to go back to Egypt and live, than to die fighting against enemies who would try to prevent them from entering the Promised Land!

Here you have a graphic illustration of hopelessness and black despair! In the face of such formidable human enemies, the Israelites gave up any trust in God they might have had and gave way to total despair!