

### A Demanding Promise

Some promises are ridiculous. "Buy this product, and you'll be slimmer in 10 days!" It sounds simple. However, what the ad really means is, "Spend your money to support our business, discipline yourself to follow a diet, exercise daily, and then you will see results." If the ad told the truth, you might not buy the product. Its promise demands too much work.

God had promised the chosen people of Israel a land flowing with milk and honey if only they would obey his commands. God encouraged them by eliminating obstacles along the way—freeing them from slavery, parting the waves of the sea, providing manna in the desert, and bringing forth water from a rock. God's promise was not ridiculous. It was real. But it demanded perseverance.

As the people drew near Canaan, God had Moses send out scouts to reconnoiter the land. Not just any scouts—princes. Not just one or two, but one from each tribe. God wanted a complete delegation of respectable people to convince the chosen people that his promise was worth the wait.

The scouts returned with cautious good news: The land flows with milk and honey. The fruit is enormous. But so are the inhabitants.

The people grumbled again. God's promise was good, but it demanded too much work.

At times, God encourages us by revealing his plan in plain terms. But still we grumble. Too often the problem is not that God won't give us the best, but that we won't give God ours.

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