

THE REPORT OF THE SPIES

Numbers 13:1 to 14:38



What could be the matter? The children of Israel crowded together crying! Moses and Aaron, their wise, brave leaders, were lying face downward on the ground!

Just this: the people were afraid. They

had come to the very edge of the Promised Land, and yet they were afraid to march in and conquer the wicked people who lived there.

Moses had chosen twelve men to go forward and spy out the land. One of the men was Joshua, another Caleb.

"Go see what kind of land it is," said Moses, "what kind of people there are, strong or weak. See whether they live in high, walled cities. See whether there are woods and orchards and vineyards."

The twelve spies set out and after some days came marching back. Two of them were bearing a huge bunch of luscious grapes, so large that it was swung on a long pole. Others had fine, ripe figs and juicy pomegranates.

"It is a goodly land," they said, "and is surely flowing with milk and honey and every blessing, just as the Lord promised. But the people who live there are strong and warlike. They are giants and they live in walled cities."

"But let us go and take the land!" cried brave Caleb.