

# *Captivating*

*Long Beach Alliance Church • January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford*

Now behold, the LORD has let me live, just as He spoke, these forty-five years, from the time that the LORD spoke this word to Moses, when Israel walked in the wilderness; and now behold, I am eighty-five years old today. I am still as strong today as I was in the day Moses sent me; as my strength was then, so my strength is now, for war and for going out and coming in. Now then, give me this hill country about which the LORD spoke on that day, for you heard on that day that Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; perhaps the LORD will be with me, and I will drive them out as the LORD has spoken.”

*~Joshua 4:10–12 (NASB)*

## **1) Revelation & Courage**

- A) When God chose to “make a people” out of Abram & Sarai (Genesis 12:1-9), he promised them land, descendants, and blessing. Much of the Old Testament can be summarized as the fulfillment of this three-fold vision.
  
- B) The book of Genesis shows the beginnings of the fulfillment of God’s vision for His people. When we arrive in Exodus, Abraham’s descendants are numerous (Exodus 1:7), but enslaved (1:8-14).

- C) God calls on Moses to deliver Abraham's descendents from Egypt to a "good and spacious land... flowing with milk and honey" (3:7-9). This reinforced God's vision for His people.
  
- D) But when the people are faced with actually taking possession of the land, they rebel against God and do not show faith (courage) in following Him (Numbers 14:1-10). Lack of focus & courage always discourages vision.

## **2) Highlighting Aspects Of The Vision In The Story**

- A) In the following list of names, which names do you recognize? "Shammua, Shaphat, Caleb, Igal, Joshua, Palti, Gaddiel, Gaddi, Ammiel, Sethur, Nahbi, & Geuel" (Numbers 13:4-16). Of these twelve spies, only two are distinctive!
  
- B) Why? Because only two (Caleb & Joshua), were courageous and did not rebel against God (Numbers 14:25-14:10). In the whole adult male population of God's people, only these two men would enter the land again (14:20-38).
  
- C) When God reveals vision, we must be faithful in responding! Refusing to respond, even for compelling reasons, shows a lack of focus & courage, and discourages vision!

## **3) Keeping The Vision Despite The Circumstances**

- A) 45 years after God's judgement, all the adult Israelites (including Moses) were dead, and Joshua (now the leader), took possession of the "promised" land (Joshua 4:13-17).
  
- B) Notably, Caleb recounts his experiences (Joshua 14:6-13). Despite 45 years of delay, Caleb never lost sight of the vision which God revealed! Caleb never let the vision die, it sustained his bones, and he was blessed by God (14:13-15).