

August 31, 2024

Have you ever wondered if what God is calling you to do is too big, too enormous of a task that you get into your own head and start talking yourself out of it.

Were you like the 10 spies who brought back a negative report about the land...

**Num 13:25** Forty days later, they returned from reconnoitering the land

**Num 13:26** and went to Moshe, Aharon and the entire community of the people of Isra'el at Kadesh in the Pa'ran Desert, where they brought back word to them and to the entire community and showed them the fruit of the land.

**Num 13:27** What they told him was this: "We entered the land where you sent us, and indeed it does flow with milk and honey—here is its fruit!

**Num 13:28** However the people living in the land are fierce, and the cities are fortified and very large. Moreover, we saw the `Anakim there.

**Num 13:29** `Amalek lives in the area of the Negev; the Hitti, the Y'vusi and the Emori live in the hills; and the Kena`ani live by the sea and alongside the Yarden."

They saw with their natural eyes what was in front of them...

**Num 13:31** But the men who had gone with him said, "We can't attack those people, because they are stronger than we";

**Num 13:32** and they spread a negative report about the land they had reconnoitered for the people of Isra'el by saying, "The land we passed through in order to spy it out is a land that devours its inhabitants. All the people we saw there were giant!

**Num 13:33** We saw the N'filim, the descendants of `Anak, who was from the N'filim; to ourselves we looked like grasshoppers by comparison, and we looked that way to them too!"

They saw themselves in a way that diminished themselves and thus elevating, amplifying the ones they were intended to defeat.

Yet one man saw something different...

**Num 13:30** Kalev silenced the people around Moshe and said, "We ought to go up immediately and take possession of it; there is no question that we can conquer it."

Was the task too great, too challenging?

Not according to Adonai who told them to do this...

**Num 13:2** "Send men on your behalf to reconnoiter the land of Kena`an, which I am giving to the people of Isra'el. From each ancestral tribe send someone who is a leader in his tribe."

The battle was already decided.

Adonai has already given them the land, yet in order to possess it, they had to get rid of the people of the land who were occupying it. Call it a mass deportation project.

The task from the perspective of many looked to be daunting if not impossible. Yet, Calev saw differently. He saw what Adonai saw. He spoke by faith because He trusted the God of Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'akov.

There was not an ounce of doubt in his mind.

I share this with you because of the task Adonai has given us, Jeri and I directly but as shepherds of the congregation, you as well.

Don't be like the people when you look at what we share with you. This enormous task of bringing unity to the body of Messiah.

Notice that we were not told you are to do this throughout the entire world or even the nation. He gave us our portion. Hence, I wouldn't be surprised if he has done the same for others in various states and nations.

The message became clear, on day after the other, one class, one session at Messiah Conference. We were putting the pieces together in real time and He was helping us understand, though He did not give us a full picture, a full road map, but rather a starting point. He would order our footsteps daily. Since then there is more being revealed to us that we are waiting on for more information and thus greater clarity.

At the picnic and Mikveh after most of you had left it was shared with us that the various intercessory prayer groups that meet throughout the state are seeking to come together and thus are seeking a pastoral covering and thus guidance.

Talk about the vision being expanded in a way we could not have fathomed.

This is important because it all starts with prayer. A much used passage though not in its proper context conveys...

**2Ch 7:13** If I shut up the sky, so that there is no rain; or if I order locusts to devour the land; or if I send an epidemic of sickness among my people;

**2Ch 7:14** then, if my people, who bear my name, will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin and heal their land.

**2Ch 7:15** Now my eyes will be open and my ears will pay attention to the prayer made in this place.

Upon the dedication of the Temple, Adonai makes this promise to the people.

It starts with prayer.

Desperate prayer groups being let to come together, seeking a pastoral covering and leadership is an enormous task.

Will I be the majority or Kalev. Right now we are praying and waiting on additional information. Your task is to be in prayer as well.

We know the story of David well, yet hearing it is always advantageous...

**1Sa 17:38** Sha'ul dressed David in his own armor—he put a bronze helmet on his head and gave him armor plate to wear.

**1Sa 17:39** David buckled his sword on his armor and tried to walk, but he wasn't used to such equipment. David said to Sha'ul, "I can't move wearing these things, because I'm not used to them." So David took them off.

**1Sa 17:40** Then he took his stick in his hand and picked five smooth stones from the riverbed, putting them in his shepherd's bag, in his pouch. Then, with his sling in his hand, he approached the P'lishti.

**1Sa 17:41** The P'lishti, with his shield-bearer ahead of him, came nearer and nearer to David.

**1Sa 17:42** The P'lishti looked David up and down and had nothing but scorn for what he saw—a boy with ruddy cheeks, red hair and good looks.

**1Sa 17:43** The P'lishti said to David, "Am I a dog? Is that why you're coming at me with sticks?"—and the P'lishti cursed David by his god.

**1Sa 17:44** Then the P'lishti said to David, "Come here to me, so I can give your flesh to the birds in the air and the wild animals."

**1Sa 17:45** David answered the P'lishti, "You're coming at me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming at you in the name of Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of the armies of Isra'el, whom you have challenged.

**1Sa 17:46** Today Adonai will hand you over to me. I will attack you, lop your

head off, and give the carcasses of the army of the P'lishtim to the birds in the air and the animals in the land. Then all the land will know that there is a God in Isra'el,

**1Sa 17:47** and everyone assembled here will know that Adonai does not save by sword or spear. For this is Adonai's battle, and he will hand you over to us."

**1Sa 17:48** When the P'lishti got up, approached and came close to meet David, David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the P'lishti.

**1Sa 17:49** David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, and hurled it with his sling. It struck the P'lishti in his forehead and buried itself in his forehead, so that he fell face down on the ground.

**1Sa 17:50** Thus David defeated the P'lishti with a sling and a stone, striking the P'lishti and killing him; but David had no sword in his hand.

**1Sa 17:51** Then David ran and stood over the P'lishti, took his sword, drew it out of its sheath, and finished killing him, cutting off his head with it. When the P'lishtim saw that their hero was dead, they fled.

**1Sa 17:52** The men of Isra'el and Y'hudah got up, shouting, and pursued the P'lishtim all the way to Gat and the gates of `Ekron. The wounded P'lishtim fell down all along the road from Sha`arayim to Gat and `Ekron.

**1Sa 17:53** After chasing the P'lishtim, the army of Isra'el returned and plundered their camp.

**1Sa 17:54** David took the head of the P'lishti and brought it to Yerushalayim, but he put the armor of the P'lishti in his tent.

**1Sa 17:55** When Sha'ul saw David go out to fight the P'lishti, he said to Avner, the army's commander, "Avner, whose son is this boy?" "By your life, O king," Avner replied, "I don't know."

**1Sa 17:56** The king said, "Find out whose son this boy is."

**1Sa 17:57** As David returned from killing the P'lishti, Avner took him and brought him to Sha'ul with the head of the P'lishti in his hand.

**1Sa 17:58** Sha'ul asked him, "Young man, whose son are you?" David answered, "I am the son of your servant Yishai the Beit-Lachmi."

Consider Gideon...

**Jdg 6:11** Then the angel of Adonai came and sat under the pistachio tree in `Ofrah that belonged to Yo'ash the Avi`ezri. His son Gid`on was threshing wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from Midyan.

**Jdg 6:12** The angel of Adonai appeared to him and said to him: "You valiant hero! Adonai is with you!"

**Jdg 6:13** "Excuse me, sir," answered Gid`on, "but if Adonai is with us, then why

is all this happening to us? And where are all his miracles our ancestors told us about when they said, 'Didn't Adonai bring us up from Egypt?' For now Adonai has abandoned us and handed us over to Midyan."

**Jdg 6:14** Adonai turned to him and said, "Go in this strength of yours and save Isra'el from the hands of Midyan. Haven't I sent you?"

**Jdg 6:15** But Gid`on answered him, "Forgive me, my Lord, but with what am I to save Isra'el? Why, my family is the poorest in M'nasheh, and I'm the youngest person in my father's house!"

**Jdg 6:16** Adonai said to him, "Because I will be with you, you will strike down Midyan as easily as if they were just one man."

Gideon would have his doubts and cast fleece before Adonai, yet we know the response. Each time Adonai affirmed Gideon's request, affirming his call.

So when it came time to save Israel, Gideon had a sizable arm to lead...

**Jdg 7:1** Then Yeruba`al, that is, Gid`on, and all the people with him, got up early and set up camp by `Ein-Harod; the camp of Midyan was north of them, by Giv`at-Moreh, in the valley.

**Jdg 7:2** Adonai said to Gid`on, "There are too many people with you for me to hand Midyan over to them, because I don't want Isra'el to be able to boast against me, 'We saved ourselves by our own strength.'

**Jdg 7:3** Therefore, proclaim to the people 'Anyone who is anxious or afraid should go back home, while we stay here on Mount Gil`ad.' " Twenty-two thousand returned, but ten thousand remained.

**Jdg 7:4** Adonai said to Gid`on, "There are still too many people. Have them come down to the water, and there I will screen them for you. If I say of anyone, 'This one is for you,' he will go with you; and if I say, 'This one is not for you,' he won't go with you."

**Jdg 7:5** So he brought the people down to the water, and Adonai said to Gid`on, "Put to one side everyone who laps up water with his tongue the way a dog does, and put to the other side everyone who gets down on his knees to drink."

**Jdg 7:6** Three hundred lapped, putting their hand to their mouth; all the rest of the men got down on their knees to drink water.

**Jdg 7:7** Adonai said to Gid`on, "I will use the three hundred men who lapped the water to save you; I will hand Midyan over to you. Let all these others go back home."

**Jdg 7:8** So they took the provisions and the shofars of the people; then he sent all the men of Isra'el away, each to his tent. But the three hundred men he kept. The camp of Midyan was in the valley below him.

**Jdg 7:9** That night Adonai said to him, "Get up and attack the camp, because I have handed it over to you.

**Jdg 7:10** But if you are afraid to attack, go down with your servant Purah;

**Jdg 7:11** and after you hear what they are saying, you will have the courage to attack the camp." So with his servant Purah he went down to the outposts of the camp.

**Jdg 7:12** Now Midyan, `Amalek and all the others from the east had settled in the valley as thick as locusts; their camels too were beyond counting, like the sand on the seashore.

**Jdg 7:13** Gid`on got there just as a man was telling a comrade about a dream he had had: "I just now dreamt that a loaf of barley bread fell into the camp of Midyan, came to the tent and struck it so hard that it overturned the tent and knocked it flat."

**Jdg 7:14** His comrade answered, "This can only be the sword of Gid`on son of Yo'ash, a man of Isra'el. God has given Midyan and all its army into his hands."

**Jdg 7:15** When Gid`on heard the dream and its interpretation, he fell on his knees in worship. Then he returned to the camp of Isra'el and said, "Get up! because Adonai has handed Midyan's army over to you."

**Jdg 7:16** He divided the three hundred men into three companies. He put in the hands of all of them shofars and empty pitchers with torches in them.

**Jdg 7:17** Then he said to them, "Watch me, and do what I do. When I get to the edge of the camp, whatever I do, you do the same.

**Jdg 7:18** When I and everyone with me blow the shofar, then you blow your shofars all around the whole camp, and shout, "For Adonai and for Gid`on!"

### **Gideon Defeats Midian**

**Jdg 7:19** Gid`on and the hundred men with him arrived at the edge of the camp a little before midnight, just after they had changed the guard. They blew the shofars and broke in pieces the pitchers that were in their hands.

**Jdg 7:20** All three companies blew the shofars, broke the pitchers and held the torches in their left hands, keeping their right hands free for the shofars they were blowing; and they shouted, "The sword for Adonai and for Gid`on!"

**Jdg 7:21** Then, as every man stood still in place around the camp, the whole camp was thrown into panic, with everyone screaming and trying to escape.

**Jdg 7:22** Gid`on's men blew their 300 shofars, and Adonai caused everyone in the camp to attack his comrades; and the enemy fled beyond Beit-Sheetah near Tz'rerah, as far as the border of Avel-M'cholah, by Tabat.

**Jdg 7:23** Then men of Isra'el were summoned from Naftali, Asher, and both regions of M'nasheh; and they pursued Midyan.

**Jdg 7:24** Gid`on sent messengers through all the hills of Efrayim, with the

message, "Come down and attack Midyan; and capture the rivers before they get there, as far as Beit-Barah, and also the Yarden." So all the men of Efrayim came together and seized the rivers as far as Beit-Barah and the Yarden.

**Jdg 7:25** They also captured two chiefs of Midyan, `Orev and Ze'ev. They put `Orev to death at the Rock of `Orev and Ze'ev at Ze'ev's Winepress; then, as they kept pursuing Midyan, they brought the heads of Orev and Ze'ev to Gid`on, who had crossed to the far side of the Yarden.

Thus, what am I saying...

**Rom 8:31** What, then, are we to say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

**Rom 8:32** He who did not spare even his own Son, but gave him up on behalf of us all—is it possible that, having given us his Son, he would not give us everything else too?

**Rom 8:33** So who will bring a charge against God's chosen people? Certainly not God—he is the one who causes them to be considered righteous!

I believe this call, this task, this vision is of Adonai, because as I have been sharing with you the Word of God speaks of reconciliation and unity. This aligns with His Word.

The task is daunting and in our own eyes and our own strength we will not succeed, but by Him ordering our footsteps and us not taking our eyes off of Him, we will succeed.

Are you Kalev or the majority?

Are you David or the army?

Are you Gideon?