

## When Israel Refused to Put God First

May 22, 2021

### AUDIO

Putting God first can be difficult. **What can we learn from Israel**, who refused to put God first?

When Moses returned to Egypt to free the Israelites, it was clear that they were not ready. Centuries of slavery had corroded their vision of God and themselves: they had no idea how free people lived. They would sooner return to bondage than rely on a God they could not see. But God was patient with them, daily demonstrating His love and provision through the cloud, the fire, and manna.

In their most decisive moment as a people, they were to be tested on their reason and their faith.

sc. 01

When the 12 spies were sent as representatives of the tribes to survey the land, they did not return with conflicting reports. All spies agreed about the quality of the land. It was exactly as it has been described.

But they diverged in their interpretation of the facts. Joshua and Caleb were rational. They built their case on the fact that God had already freed them from the most powerful nation on earth at the time. This mighty salvation was clear evidence that God would continue to fulfill His promises. They were willing to put God first because of the evidence they had seen.

Along with the rest of the Israelites, the other ten spies were overtaken with irrational fear. They ignored the evidence of how God had led them in the past. So, God decided to keep that entire generation wandering in the desert until their death. Only their children would inherit Canaan.

### VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

## AUDIO

sc. **02**

Sometimes we are like those ten spies. We have already seen first-hand how God is faithful when we take our tithe and Promise seriously. Sometimes, however, we are still tempted to ignore the facts and give in to fear.

sc. **03**

Israel refused to put God first. The consequences were terrible for them and the world around them. God's love compels us to put His Kingdom first, while Israel's example is a warning for us today. As we return our tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.

## VÍDEO

Images related to text and animation.

Text animation.