

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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George L. Faull, Editor

Dear Brother Faull,

The Bible says in **Numbers 26:65** that only Joshua and Caleb entered into the Promised Land. Why do some people say that more entered in?

ANSWER:

It is true; the Bible does state that Joshua and Caleb were the only ones who entered into Canaan who were over twenty years of age. **Numbers 26:2**, "Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, **from twenty years old and upward**, throughout their fathers' house, all that are able to go to war in Israel."

However, the Levites were not included under the curse of dying in the wilderness for three reasons:

1. **They had no land inheritance given to them among Israel.**

Numbers 26:62-65, "62 And those that were numbered of them were twenty and three thousand, all males from a month old and upward: for they were not numbered among the children of Israel, because there was no inheritance given them among the children of Israel. 63 These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho. 64 But among these **there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai.** 65 For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun."

2. **They had sent no spies in to spy out the land.**

Numbers 13:3-16, "3 And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel. 4 And these were their names: of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur. 5 Of the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori. 6 Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephunneh. 7 Of the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph. 8 Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun. 9 Of the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu. 10 Of the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi. 11 Of the tribe of Joseph, namely, of the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi. 12 Of the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli. 13 Of the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael. 14 Of the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi. 15 Of the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi. 16 These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua."

3. **They were not numbered with Israel.**

Numbers 14:29, "Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and **all that were numbered of you**, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,"



Numbers 1:43-47, "43 Those that were numbered of them, even of the tribe of Naphtali, were fifty and three thousand and four hundred. 44 These are those that were numbered, which Moses and Aaron numbered, and the princes of Israel, being twelve men: each one was for the house of his fathers. 45 So were all those that were numbered of the children of Israel, by the house of their fathers, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war in Israel; 46 Even all they that were numbered were six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty. 47 **But the Levites after the tribe of their fathers were not numbered among them.**"

Now the proof was that we have rightly understood the above, is shown in the lives of:

1. **Ithamar, Eleazar, and Phinehas; the sons and grandson of Aaron.**

2. **Nadab and Abihu, two of Aaron's sons, were killed for rebellion during Moses' life.**

Exodus 28:1, 9, "1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons. 9 And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel:"

Eleazar and Ithamar, their brothers, saw them die. All of these were ordained priests who had to be 25 years of age. At that time, Moses was 80 years old. Moses was 120 when he died. Both Eleazar and Ithamar entered into the Promised Land, and they had to be over 65 years of age, yet they did not die in the wilderness.

Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron and the oldest son of Eleazar, did an outstanding thing during Moses' lifetime, in the slaying of the man and women who were committing adultery before the holy tabernacle.

Numbers 25:7-8, "And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; 8 And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel."

This happened before the spies were sent into Canaan to spy out the land. Phinehas also entered into the Promised Land.

It is evident from this that besides Joshua and Caleb, these three men who were over 20 years of age also entered the Promised Land. In fact, it is possible that other Levites over 20 years of age also may have entered into the Promised Land.

I hope this helps to see how carefully we must read the Scriptures to find all truth. One must not only read a verse, but the context, as well.