

INTO THE UNKNOWN



D-Day

- 'Men, I am not a religious man and I don't know your feelings in this matter, but I am going to ask you to pray with me for the success of the mission before us. And while we pray, let us get on our knees and not look down but up with faces raised to the sky so that we can see God and ask his blessing in what we are about to do.' – **Lt Col Robert L Wolverton**
 - "God almighty, in a few short hours we will be in battle with the enemy. We do not join battle afraid. We do not ask favors or indulgence but ask that, if You will, use us as Your instrument for the right and an aid in returning peace to the world." -- **Lt Col Robert L Wolverton**, commanding officer of 3rd battalion, 506th PIR.
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CHRISTIANITY IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

Life's Milestones

Asking for God's Blessing

- Birth of a Child
- Becoming a Christian
- Graduation
- Marriage
- Health Issues
- Death

Traditional Irish Wedding Blessing

- *May the road rise to meet you.*
- *May the wind be always at your back.*
- *May the sun shine warm upon your face,*
- *the rain fall soft upon your fields.*
- *And until we meet again,*
- *may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

Times of Uncertainty

- What is your typical reaction when faced with a situation that is foreign to you or has you concerned?
- Times of uncertainty can bring about many reactions.
- *Create Scouting Reports*
- *Wishing for the Past*
- *Excitement*

Creating a Scouting Report

Sources of Information

- Internet sites
- Articles
- Experts
- People who have gone through the experience.



Reaction to Our Findings

- Confidence Grows
- Prepared
- Questions Arise
- Worry/Panic Creep In



Sending Out Scouts

- *The LORD said to Moses, ² “Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders.*
- *¹⁷ When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. ¹⁸ See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.”*
- *¹⁹ What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? ²⁰ How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.”* Numbers 13: 1-2, 17-20

The Findings

- *27 They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.” Numbers 13:27-29*



The Reactions

- *30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”*



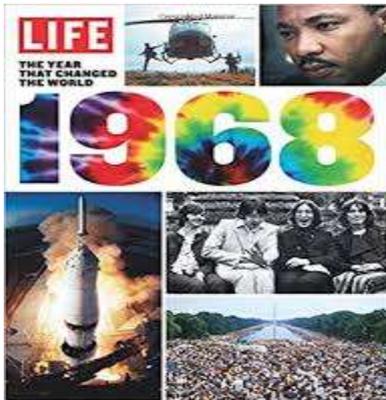
- *31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.” Numbers 13: 30-33*

Does our faith influence our reaction?

- Israelites wandered for 40 years before reaching Canaan.
- God had gotten them through many trials.
- They knew this was the promised land.
- They did not trust God.
- When faced with a uncertain situation, are we like Caleb or the other men?
- Have we learned to trust God?
- Do we believe God will bring us through the situation?

Wishing for the Past

- “I long for the good ol’ days.”
- I knew what was going to happen each day.
- Things were better/easier.



- *That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. ² All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” ⁴ And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”*
- Numbers 14: 1-4

Time Moves Forward- We Need to Also

- Time Never Stops
- People are expected to grow and mature.
- As Christians, our faith needs to grow and mature.



- *15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*
- *16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*
- *17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.”* Matthew 16: 15-17

Where Else?

- *60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”*
- *66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.*
- *67 “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.*
- *68 Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”*
John 6: 60,66-68
- In our Christian journey, have we come to the place of full trust in God?
- When faced with a time of uncertainty, do we believe God’s help is the only way to get through it?
- Are we willing to move forward in our faith and help others to do the same?

A Chance for Adventure

- *16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 18 At once they left their nets and followed him.*
- *19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.*
- Mark 1: 16-20
- The first apostles immediately left what they were doing and began to follow Jesus.
- They had no idea what was going to happen.
- Who is this man?
- Where were they going?
- How was their lives going to change?
- What about their families and businesses?

When God Calls

- When we are called by God to go out and share our faith, what is our reaction?
- Hesitation
- Lack of Confidence
- Excitement to see what God can do through us.
- The apostles got to witness Jesus' ministry all by saying "yes" to His offer.
- Do we trust God enough to say "yes" to His offers each day?
- Do we believe God will help guide us during times when we are asked to share our faith?

Words of Comfort and Strength

- *Though I walk through the valley of death, I fear no evil, for you are with me...*
Psalm 23: 4
- *²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”* Matthew 6: 25-26
- *¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. **And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**”* Matthew 28: 19-20