

TSIYON NEWS

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From Eliyahu

There is something tragic and strangely common in human life: people can come right to the edge of something good, something needed, something prepared for them - and then step back.

They get close enough to see it clearly. Close enough to know it is real. Close enough to taste the fruit of it, to sense what could be, to feel the nearness of

change. And yet, instead of entering in, they retreat. Sometimes the retreat looks reasonable. Sometimes it is dressed up as caution, prudence, waiting for a better time, or needing just one more sign. But underneath all of that, very often, is fear. And fear, if left in charge, quickly turns into unbelief.

This is one of the great lessons of Israel standing at the edge of the Promised Land.

YHWH had not only called them out of Egypt, but had carried them, taught them, ordered them, and brought them all the way to the threshold of what He had promised. They were not stepping into a vague dream they had imagined for themselves. They were stepping toward a future He Himself had prepared and spoken. The land was real. The promise was real. The call was real. Even the spies testified, at least in part, that it was a good land.

And yet they did not enter in.

Why?

Because between them and the promise stood obstacles large enough to awaken fear. Giants. Fortified cities. A battle they did not feel equal to. The goodness of the land was undeniable, but so were the challenges. And when their eyes fixed more on the challenge than on the God who had brought them there, their hearts melted. In the end, it was not merely fear of giants that kept them out. It was unbelief.

That same pattern shows up everywhere in human life.

People reach the edge of healing, and step back because the process looks too painful. People come to the point of reconciliation, and step back because vulnerability feels too dangerous. People get near a calling, a responsibility, a new work, a new season, a needed act of courage, and step back because success itself feels frightening, or because failure seems unbearable, or because entering in will require becoming someone better than they have yet dared to be.

Many people do not fail because there was no open door. They fail because when the open door appeared, it demanded trust, courage, and movement. It required them to leave the wilderness they knew for a promise they could not control.

That is a hard transition for fallen human beings.

The wilderness may be harsh, but it is familiar. The promise may be good, but it is unknown. In the wilderness, at least a person knows the patterns of survival. In the promise, there are new demands, new battles, and new levels of responsibility. Strangely enough, people will often choose a future they dislike over a future they cannot control. They will remain in a place of barrenness because barrenness feels more predictable than risk.

This happens with all kinds of people, believer and unbeliever alike.

Some step back because they fear pain. Some because they fear responsibility. Some because they fear visibility. Some because they fear opposition. Some because they secretly fear that if they really enter in, their excuses will die, and they will have to live differently. For others, stepping back is tied to old wounds. They have been disappointed before, betrayed before, embarrassed before, shattered before, and now when something good stands before them, their heart whispers, "Do not go too far. Do not hope too much. Do not trust again."

And so they step back.

Many never call it unbelief. They call it realism.

But realism can sometimes be fear that has learned to speak intelligently.

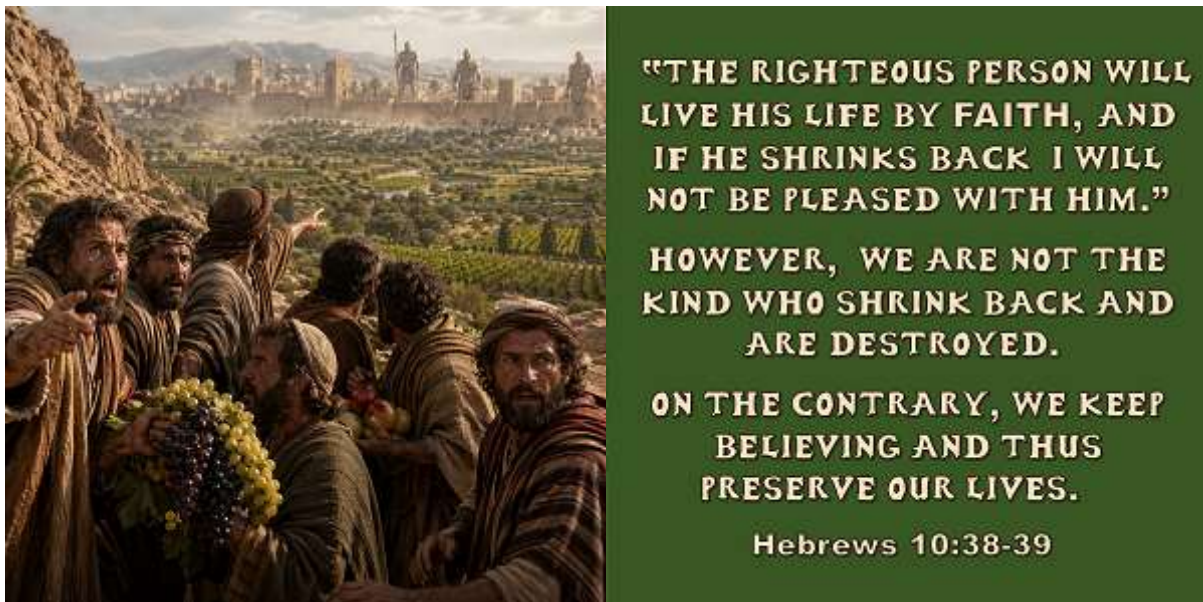
That is one reason this pattern is so common. Fear is persuasive. It can gather evidence. It can point to the walls, measure the giants, and count the risks. It can make retreat sound mature. The ten spies did not come back saying there was no land. They came back saying the obstacles were too great. That is how fear works. It does not always deny the goodness of what YHWH has set before us. It simply argues that obedience is impractical.

And once that argument is accepted, retreat begins to feel justified.

For believers, this is especially painful, because we are not merely talking about human opportunity. We are talking about the tragic possibility of stepping back from something YHWH Himself is doing, and has called us to do. It is one thing for an unbeliever to shrink from a hard road because he has no covenant confidence in YHWH. It is another thing when believers, who have seen His

faithfulness, who have known His leading, and who have testimonies behind them, still come to the edge of obedience and step back into unbelief.

Yet it happens all the time.



A believer may know that YHWH is dealing with him about forgiving someone, about speaking truth, about taking a needed stand, about beginning a work, about leaving compromise, about walking through an open door, about trusting Him in a hard season, about preparing for the remnant exodus. The believer may even recognize that what lies ahead is good, right, and from YHWH. But then the mind fills with towering obstacles. What will people think? What if I fail? What if I am misunderstood? What if the cost is too high? What if I lose what little security I have? What if the battle is too hard?

Once again, the soul stands at the edge of the land.

And here is where believers need to understand something deeply: fear itself is a human response, but if fear is allowed to rule, it ripens into unbelief. The issue is not that the Israelites felt the size of the challenge. The issue is that they interpreted the challenge apart from the power and faithfulness of YHWH.

That is still the danger now.

Scripture does not ask us to pretend there are no giants. It asks us to remember who YHWH is. Moses said to Israel,

"Don't dread, neither be afraid of them. YHWH your God who goes before you, he will fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness, where you have seen how that YHWH your God bore you, as a man does bear his son, in all the way that you went, until you came to this place." (Deut 1:29-31)

That is the answer to the crisis of the threshold. Remember who brought you here. Remember who carried you. Remember what He has already done. Remember that the One who brought you to this point did not do so to abandon you in front of the obstacle.

That is why unbelief is so serious. It is never merely a misreading of the present. It is also a forgetting of the past.

The Israelites did not fall because YHWH was absent. They fell because they allowed present fear to overpower remembered faithfulness. They stood at the very point where trust should have matured into action - and instead it collapsed.

The writer of Hebrews reaches back to that moment and makes clear that the wilderness generation failed to enter in because of unbelief. That warning is not preserved for ancient history only. It is given because the pattern continues. People can hear the promise, approach the promise, even desire the promise, and still fail to enter because faith gives way to fear.

So what helps believers push through?

First, believers need to recognize the threshold moment for what it is. Not every hard place is a warning to stop. Sometimes it is the final resistance before breakthrough. Sometimes the very presence of giants means you are standing near something worth taking. If YHWH has truly brought you to that point, opposition is not proof that you missed Him. It may be proof that you are exactly where decisive trust and faithful action is now required.

Second, believers must learn to answer fear with remembered faithfulness. The enemy of your soul wants you to stare at the walls immobilized. YHWH calls you to remember the Red Sea, the manna, the cloud, the fire, the mercies, the providences, the prayers answered, the times you were carried when you could not carry yourself. Faith is strengthened when memory is made obedient to truth.

Third, believers need to refuse the language of retreat. Israel murmured in their tents. That detail is striking. Fear loves private conversation, repeated inwardly and reinforced among the fearful. It grows in the atmosphere of complaint, exaggeration, and mutual discouragement. If you rehearse the size of the giants without rehearsing the greatness of YHWH, unbelief will gain ground. The believer must interrupt the inward murmur and answer it with the word of YHWH.

Fourth, obedience often requires movement before emotional certainty arrives. Many people wait to feel fearless before they move. That is not usually how faith works. Faith moves because YHWH has spoken, not because all trembling has vanished. Courage is not the absence of fear. It is the act of trusting YHWH enough to obey while fear is still trying to speak.

Fifth, believers must understand that stepping back has consequences. Israel's refusal was not a neutral pause. They did not remain at the edge forever. They lost the future that had been set before them and died in the wilderness instead. That is sobering. There are seasons in which stepping back from trust leads to years of unnecessary loss. YHWH is merciful, and He is able to restore much, but that does not make unbelief harmless. The blessing you refuse will go to someone else.

There are many believers today living in futures they do not like because, at some earlier point, they stepped back from trusting YHWH through something difficult. They drew back from obedience, from courage, from surrender, from forward movement, and now they find themselves in a wilderness of delay, frustration, and dissatisfaction. Not every hard season is caused by unbelief, of course. But some are. And wisdom requires us to admit that.

Yet there is also hope in this.

The answer is not to become harsh with ourselves or others. The answer is to return to the place where trust is restored. Joshua and Caleb saw the same land, the same walls, and the same giants. The difference was not that they were blind

to reality. The difference was that they measured reality by YHWH, not YHWH by reality. Remember the Name of the one who transcends our reality: **"I will be with you."**

That is still the dividing line.

When believers keep trusting YHWH, they overcome - not because the road becomes easy, but because the One who called them remains faithful. Doors open. Strength comes. Timing unfolds. Battles are won. Character grows. Futures change. Destinies are entered not by human bravado, but by persevering trust.

So perhaps the question for each of us is this:

Where have I come to the edge and stepped back?

Where have I allowed fear to disguise itself as wisdom?

Where have I talked myself out of obedience because the giants looked too large?

And where is YHWH, even now, calling me not merely to admire the land from a distance, but to go forward and enter in?

There is a kind of sorrow that comes from never having had the opportunity. But there is another sorrow, even greater, that comes from having stood at the threshold, having seen the goodness of what YHWH set before you, and then having turned away. This is not simply "missing His highest will" - this is disobedience.

May that not be your story.

May you not die in the wilderness with promise in view and unbelief in your heart.

May you remember the One who brought us here.

May you trust the One who goes before us.

And when the moment comes to cross over, may you not step back.

Brothers and sisters, we are much closer than it may feel to our return in the remnant exodus from the nations of this world - back to our Land and our destiny. In faith it is possible to see that, and to see beyond that, across the horizon, into that good Land and world-changing future promised to the remnant in these last days.

May our case be like that of the 2nd generation of Israel after coming out of Egypt, to take the Land after the first generation had missed that opportunity in unbelief. Standing on the verge of the Land of Promise, the words of Moses to them ring forward through time to our generation, to us, to rouse our faith to meet the call with faith and courage. That is why we are revisiting the book of Deuteronomy, starting tonight.

My theme tonight will be: *Unbelief is a monster*. You need to hear it. Tune in tonight at 8 PM Central at Tsiyon.Net and other popular video streaming platforms, and invite family and friends. Its coming. Everything is on the line.

In His Name, Eliyahu

Contact: <https://tsiyon.org> - <https://eliyahubendavid.substack.com/>

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Audio:



Video:



***"The nations shall know that I am YHWH,
when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes." Eze 36:23***

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