

So Close and Yet So Far

When I read this week's *Parashat Sh'lach* a phrase from the 1974 song *My Eyes Adored You* by *Frankie Valli* and the *Four Seasons* immediately comes to my mind: *So close, so close, and yet so far*. And it reminds me of what happens in our day when we see/read/hear the reports from the *Media*. Their news reporting seems to be designed to *instill fear and mistrust* by means of *carefully worded misinformation*. If one does not use alternative sources and depends only on TV News, the Networks (including Fox) or the Newspapers and outlets, we are going to be misled being completely oblivious to the agenda behind these organizations. Most people cannot not fathom that such organizations could be dispensing psychological warfare and CIA developed (sponsored?) Mind Control tactics to push a left-leaning agenda. An agenda far from what *The Almighty* desires for His People. In today's Torah Portion ten of the twelve spies "*spread among Bnei-Yisrael a bad report about the land*" (*Numbers 13:32*). The same tactic is being successfully used to spread antisemitism and hatred for Israel, the US and His People. It is naïveté to not recognize that Satan is behind this worldwide tactic. Even for some well-meaning Believers, the *existence and interference of the Kingdom of Darkness* is relegated to a *fairy tale*.

How effective was this *Torah-labeled bad report* on the Children of Israel? "*14¹All through that night, the entire community raised up their voices. The people wept. 2All Bnei-Yisrael GRUMBLED against Moses and Aaron and the whole community said, 'If only we had died in Egypt! If only we had died in this wilderness! 3Why is Adonai bringing us to this land to fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be like plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?'*" (*Numbers 14:1-3*). The central issue in the negative report was "*We cannot attack these people, because they are stronger than we.*" What? Who is behind this Promise Land idea? Was it Moses? Aaron? Myriam? Trump? A resounding NO! It was none other than *Yah Adonai our Elohim* (*יהוה*). It was His Plan and His Doing. They were right to say we cannot attack these people because as humans we cannot win. But with Him? ("*And looking, Yeshua said to them, 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible'*" [*Matthew 19:26*]) Is there anyone or anything stronger than *The Almighty*? You know the answer and so did the Children of Israel. How did such a thing happen? The answer is FEAR! We are either going to *Fear The Almighty* or *fear the Kingdom of Darkness* or *fear man*. Systematic and well placed fear shut down the world during COVID. So much so that collectively we accepted isolation and willingly gave up freedom. Come on now people, how wise were we just a couple of years ago? We as a people mostly chose to inject ourselves with snake poison as a way to be healthy. It does not escape my mind that ultimately the COVID Vaccine consisted of man-altered biology and snake venom. The obvious connection with Satan is inescapable. Today the MAHA director is continuing to reveal these things about the VAX to an oblivious public who drank from Satan's cup!

How much fear are we supposed to have in our lives as Believers? Yeshua did not give us fear "*7For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*" (*2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV*). When we yield to fear we lose our mind. We begin to rant and rave about anything and everything, even about *The Almighty*. We blame Him for everything. We immediately forget about His Word and put all blame on Him and/or His Servant. Then we grumble and exaggerate and go way beyond what is real and reasonable. The children of Israel did in Numbers 14, and so do we. Never mind the fact that Moses and Aaron fell on their faces and Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes: "*5Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the entire assembly of the community of Bnei-Yisrael. 6Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes. 7They said to the whole assembly of Bnei-Yisrael, 'The land through which we passed is an exceptionally good land! 8If Adonai is pleased with us, He will lead us into that land and will give it to us—a land flowing with milk and honey. 9Only don't rebel against Adonai,*

and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They will be food for us. The protection over them is gone. Adonai is with us! Do not fear them. (Numbers 14:5-9)“ But instead of recognizing that it is The Almighty behind the current situation, even hearing it said, the response was *“¹⁰But the whole assembly talked about violently stoning them”*. This is a death-producing activity (like for *Stephen* in *Acts 7*) and unless The Almighty intervenes that was the end of Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb! What does the Almighty think about this? *“¹⁰Then the glory of Adonai appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all Bnei-Yisrael. ¹¹Adonai said to Moses, 'How long will these people treat Me contemptibly? How long will they neglect to trust in Me—in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?'”* Grumbling and Complaining is not good: *“²⁶Adonai then said to Moses and Aaron saying, ²⁷“How long will this wicked community be grumbling against Me? I have heard the complaints of Bnei-Yisrael grumbling against Me. ²⁸So tell them, ‘As surely as I live,’ says Adonai, ‘I will do to you just as I heard you say in My ears. ²⁹In this very wilderness your bodies will drop—every one of you 20 years of age and older who was numbered in the census and grumbled against Me. ³⁰Not one of you will enter the land about which I lifted My hand to make home for you—except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. ³¹“As for your children—whom you said would be like plunder—I will bring them in and they will experience the land that you spurned. ³²But your bodies will drop in this wilderness. ³³Your children will be herdsmen in the wilderness for 40 years. They will suffer because of your unfaithfulness until your corpses are consumed in the wilderness. ³⁴For 40 years, corresponding to the number of the 40 days you explored the land—one year for each day—you will suffer for your iniquities and know My hostility. ³⁵I, Adonai, have spoken and certainly will I do this to all this wicked community banding together against Me. In this wilderness they will meet their end and there they will die!” ³⁶Then the men whom Moses had sent to explore the land, who had returned and caused the whole community to grumble against him by spreading a bad report about the land, ³⁷these men, spreading the bad report about the land, died of the plague in Adonai's presence. ³⁸Of those men who had gone to explore the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived...³⁹When Moses related these things to all of Bnei-Yisrael, the people mourned bitterly (VV 26-29)”* All the crying and repenting afterwards DID not change the consequences. Moses could not stop them, neither Aaron or Joshua or Caleb. *No one* can stop *The Almighty's* consequences. All of the Children of Israel (guilty and non-guilty alike) experienced the consequence of the 40 years in the Wilderness — Moses, Aaron, Joshua and Caleb and the kids. Don't tell me the sins of the parents do not affect their offspring! Don't ever be tempted to not believe what *The Almighty* says. When He passes judgment, it is a DONE DEAL.

If we want to live *Acts* again as Believers, we will have to be prepared to **Trust and Obey** (*🎵 for there's no other way 🎵*) and rely on the *Ruach HaKodesh* to witness about *Yeshua*. We can't afford to grumble and complaint and let our mouths bring us death. Since out of our mouths can come cursing and blessings we better reign our mouths in and stop even the first semblance of grumbling and complaining. Don't tell me that our generation is not a grumbling and complaining generation. Instead we need to excel in being a blessing and can-do generation, especially once we become reliant on the *Holy Spirit*.

We are the generation that went through COVID. We saw what fear can do to an entire world. We especially see what it did to Israel and the US. We have experienced first hand what *Fear of a Virus* can do. If you think *9-11* was effective in changing the US, what do you think about *COVID* and the subsequent rise in *anti Semitism* and *anti Believers*. But this is precisely the world that we are to witness to. This is the world that needs *The Revival* and we can be those *Ruach HaKodesh Revival Agents*.

Do you think that living in the *Book of Acts* will be a piece of cake. Which *Acts* are you referring to? The one in the Bible? Will it be any different for us than for the apostles? NO WAY. I continue to pray for us to... Yes Lord! We will appropriate THE Resurrection **EXPERIENCE and POWER** of *His Spirit to go change this world!* Nothing is impossible for us if we have faith, and we do. *Shabbat Shalom!*