13. Send thou men.

Why is the section of the spies adjoined to the section of Miriam? Because she had been punished for evil talk, which she had spoken against her brother, and these wicked people saw and did not take correction (from her) (Tannuma).

14. And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying:

1. And the Lord spoke unto Moses,

2. Send thou men, that they may spy out

Some say the following daily after the end of morning prayers:

[Note: The text is heavily annotated with headings and notes, indicating the references to Ramban and other sources.]

[Note: Ramban expands on this idea that God's instruction to Moses was a new command, not a consent to the people's request.]

And likewise, it seems further that what they requested of Moses was: Let us send men ahead of us and let them search out the Land (Deuteronomy 1:22), and that verb refers to a searching of the roads, and doing so for matters pertaining to the conquest of the Land, related to the similar word in the expression, he (the eagle) searches for food from there (Job 39:29). And this, too, is the meaning of the words Let us send men "ahead of us" (Deuteronomy ibid.) — as in the expression, and the Ark of the covenant journeyed "ahead of them" (above, 10:30), meaning that they followed behind it. 44 — And similarly we find: to the Land that I had picked out for them (Ezekiel 20:6);
When Moses sent the men to explore the Canaanite territory, he said to them: "Head north to the Negev, then continue north to the hill country. "Is it the land good or bad? Can the people there be strong or weak? What kind of land is it? Are the cities where they live open or fortified? Is the soil fertile or not?" With the head of the tribe Ben Gad, Moses said: "On the way through the Negev, they headed north and explored the land. From the Ten Dooz's all the way to Bezek, on the road to Canaan."

"It was the season when the first grapes begin to ripen. The men said: "The land's fruits are plentiful."

So Moses said: "Head north, on the road to Canaan, to explore the Canaanite territory."

They went north, on the road to Canaan, to explore the Canaanite territory."

(Translated from Hebrew)

11 When Moses sent the men to explore the land, he said to them: "Head north to the Negev, then continue north to the hill country. Is it the land good or bad? Can the people there be strong or weak? What kind of land is it? Are the cities where they live open or fortified? Is the soil fertile or not? Make a special effort to bring (back) some of the land's fruits."

"It was the season when the first grapes begin to ripen. The men said: "The land's fruits are plentiful.

12 So Moses said: "Head north, on the road to Canaan, to explore the Canaanite territory."

They went north, on the road to Canaan, to explore the Canaanite territory."

(Translated from Hebrew)
Opinions have been expressed that living outside Israel was a better option for Orthodox Jews than living in Israel, because while Israel was allegedly rife with heretics, outside Israel one could create insular ghettos and eliminate such outside influences. Yet with all the ghettos that Jews have created, from Brooklyn to Johannesburg to Gateshead, none was holier than the Levite camp during the Israelites’ forty-year desert sojourn, the camp where Moses himself lived. Despite the sanctity of this encampment, Moses, the most preeminent of prophets, begged God: Pray let me cross over and see the good land that is on the other side of the Jordan (Deut. 3:25). Moses knew that even the holiness of the Levite camp itself did not approach that of the Land of Israel.