

ON INTERPRETING REALITY

Numbers 13-14

None of us deals directly with reality; we deal 24 hours a day with the data our _____ present to our brains
Our senses, our nervous systems & our brains interpret physical reality, and our _____ also interpret reality
If we set our own agenda, if we demand our own way, God will normally say, "If that's your plan, _____"
That is why we must not lean to our own _____, but in all our ways, acknowledge God's authority

I. RARELY DO WE ENCOUNTER _____ DATA

The Majority Report (13:27-29) seemed to be _____ facts, but the report was not objective because of which facts they chose to report/highlight: the number of nations and the _____ of their fortifications

BEWARE! OBJECTIVITY IS _____

II. HOW WE INTERPRET DATA IS A MATTER OF _____

We all see reality through a certain _____; like our senses, our hearts interpret the data presented to us

A. The Majority Saw the Land through the Lens of _____ and Rebellion

- 1) We are not able to _____ this land; these people are stronger than we are
- 2) This land _____ its inhabitants; a nonsensical statement intended to discourage the Israelites
- 3) There are _____ in the land; this word harks back to Gen.6—like saying, "_____ is there!"

B. Caleb and Joshua Saw the Land through the Lens of God's _____ to His Promises

- 1) Caleb didn't see big cities, big fortifications, big armies and big giants, but rather a big _____
 - a) Caleb interpreted the data from Canaan through the lens of God's promise to Father _____
 - b) Caleb interpreted through the lens of the miracles God performed in rescuing Israel from _____
- 2) Humans do not _____ from objective data to their belief systems
Humans use their belief systems to _____ the data

III. INTERPRETATIONS OF REALITY _____ OTHERS

The "truth" of the 10 spies was so influential that it caused the entire Israelite nation to _____ against God

A. Interpretations Have _____ 14:28-35

- 1) God promised that all Israelites age 20 and older would die over the next 40 years in the _____
- 2) How we interpret reality, what we think about objectivity, is not splitting hairs ...

B. It Can Be a Matter of Life and _____

- 1) Because the Israelites took the wrong perspective, they failed to enter the _____ Land
- 2) It typifies not heaven, but the Christian life: the wrong perspective can keep us from _____