

## EXPLORING GOD'S WORD

### LESSON 5

[Read Numbers 13:1-2, 17-33]

After receiving the Law of God at Mt. Sinai, Israel journeyed toward the Promised Land (Canaan). They came to a place called Kadesh. From there, Moses sent spies into the land to help them prepare for the conquest of Canaan.

#### I. GOOD REPORT VS. EVIL REPORT:

Ten spies brought back an evil report.

Two spies brought back a good report – their names were Joshua and Caleb.

Israel allowed the giants before them to blind them to the power of God experienced behind them. They focused more on the challenges than they did on the promise.

[Read Numbers 13:23-33]

#### II. ISRAEL & THE WILDERNESS:

Because of their unbelief God sentenced Israel to wander in the wilderness for 40 years, until that generation died off.

##### **Numbers 14:32–33 (KJV 1900)**

**32** But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.

**33** And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.

The events of their journeying through the wilderness were written for our benefit. [Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-13]

[Read Deuteronomy 8]

In Deuteronomy 8, God calls Israel out of the wilderness. This chapter can be divided into remembrance, promise & warning.

God disciplined Israel, but He never abandoned them.

Moses died on top of Mt. Nebo just east of the Promised Land. [Read Deuteronomy 34:1-8]

#### III. THE CONQUEST AND SETTLEMENT OF CANAAN:

- a. God raised up Joshua to lead Israel. [Read Deuteronomy 34:9-12]
- b. God was with him just as he had been with Moses. [See Joshua 1:1-7]
- c. Israel crosses the Jordan river on dry ground. [See Joshua 3:9-13]
- d. Rahab demonstrates faith when she hides the spies. She will later be in the lineage of Jesus and discussed in the "Faith Hall of Fame" in the book of Hebrews. [See Joshua 2]

- e. Israel demonstrates faith and obedience when they march around the walls of Jericho. This was obedience in the process of a miracle. God's instructions do not always make sense.
- f. God helped them drive out the inhabitants of the land as He had promised.
- g. Joshua's final charge to the people:

**Joshua 24:14–15 (KJV 1900)**

**14** Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

**15** And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

**IV. THE TIME OF JUDGES:**

- a. For more than 300 years Israel lived in the Promised Land without a king.

**Judges 2:16 (KJV 1900)**

**16** Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them.

- |           |             |          |
|-----------|-------------|----------|
| ➤ Othniel | ➤ Gideon    | ➤ Ibzan  |
| ➤ Ehud    | ➤ Tola      | ➤ Elon   |
| ➤ Shamgar | ➤ Jair      | ➤ Abdon  |
| ➤ Deborah | ➤ Jephthah, | ➤ Samson |

- b. Israel drifted from God and often slipped into idolatry.

**Judges 17:6 (KJV 1900)**

**6** In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

**V. THE UNITED KINGDOM:**

**1 Samuel 8:5 (KJV 1900)**

**5** And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

Israel wanted a king “like other nations.” We should never despise our differences from the world around us.

- a. The first king of Israel was Saul.
  - i. Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin.
  - ii. Saul is head and shoulders above others.
  - iii. Saul would reign for 40 years.

- iv. Saul would be Rejected by God for disobedience.
- v. Saul's response to his sin.
  - 1. Deny
  - 2. Blame
  - 3. Rationalize
  - 4. Minimize

[Read 1 Samuel 15:12-23]

**1 Samuel 15:30 (KJV 1900)**

**30** Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

- b. The second king of Israel was David
  - i. David was a shepherd boy
  - ii. David slew Goliath
  - iii. David is the beloved psalmist
  - iv. Man after God's Own Heart. [See Acts 13:22]
  - v. David receives a covenant from God that his descendants would always sit on the throne in Jerusalem.
- c. David's sin with Bathsheba: [Read 2 Samuel 11:1-9]
  - i. David commits adultery
  - ii. David commits murder
- d. David repents of his sin and God restores him. [See 2 Samuel 12:1-13]

**2 Samuel 12:13 (KJV 1900)**

**13** And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

[Conclude with reading Psalm 51]