

# Show Me Your Glory

## Lessons from the Life of Moses

### Lesson 15 Numbers 13–14

#### *Day One:* Exploring the Promised Land

The inheritance God had in store for His people was promising and plentiful—abundantly above all they could ask or think and they were about to get a glimpse of it; but a look is all they would get! The generation to leave Egypt, the ones who inherited the promises of God and who received the laws of God, refused to enter in because of their unbelief and disobedience. Their rebellion at Kadesh Barnea is a sobering reminder to God's people today that every child of God is called to walk by faith and not by sight!

Read Numbers 13–14. Today we will focus on Numbers 13.

Moses dispatches a team of men—one leader from each tribe—to go and spy out the land of Canaan and bring back a report.

1. According to Deuteronomy 1:22, who made the request to send out the spies?

Since God had already promised to give His people this land, why did they need to search it out before going in to occupy it? Wasn't it exactly what they were hoping for? Yes, and much more; but amazingly, they didn't believe it! God was longsuffering in granting their request, giving Moses permission to send the spies out.

2. What did Moses tell them to watch for?
  - a. v. 18
  - b. v. 19
  - c. v. 20
3. Who did they find living there? v. 22
4. What were they told to bring back with them? vv. 20, 23

For forty days they traveled an estimated 350 miles, exploring and observing the land and its inhabitants between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. Then they returned to Kadesh with word of everything they had seen throughout the land.

5. What was the assessment regarding . . .
  - a. *the land?* vv. 26–27
  - b. *the cities?* v. 28
  - c. *the people?* v. 28–29; 32–33

These twelve leaders of Israel’s tribes had gone out and brought back a report of a land indeed flowing with milk and honey and a sample of the beautiful fruit; but they also talked of fortified cities and many giants living there!

6. When all was said and done, what was the overall tone of the report? vv. 31–32a
  - a. In comparison, to what did they equate their own stature? v. 33
  - b. Who stood alone in his assessment and what did he try to do? v. 30
  - c. After seeing with their own eyes what God had in store for them, why do you think ten of these men shirked back in unbelief and only one stood firm in his faith in God? (Joshua also stood in faith as we will see later.)

### *Look closer . . .*

Like God’s plan for the Israelites, His plan for *you* is based on His promises in Scripture. He has a land for you to occupy and a work for you to do that was planned long ago: “*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them*” (Ephesians 2:10). The only way you can claim the blessings prepared for you is by trusting in Him and obeying His Word.

- ❖ Are you standing on the fringes of your *promised land*—or have you entered in?
- ❖ Are you walking in those *good works* right now?
- ❖ What is holding you back from receiving all that is yours to inherit?

*Heartbeat . . .* “*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*” 2 Corinthians 5:7

## *Day Two:*

## Refusing God's Promise

The majority of the spies had turned in a bad report, and now the congregation turned from optimism to obstinacy. Sadly, an entire generation of people was about to turn away from God, fail the test, and be kept out of the Promised Land!

Read Numbers 14:1–10.

1. What did the *all* children of Israel do all that night? v. 1
  
2. Write down the substance of their complaint against Moses and Aaron . . .
  - a. v. 2
  
  - b. v. 3
  
  - c. v. 4
  
3. Knowing that God would respond to this growing rebellion, what did Moses and Aaron do? v. 5
  
4. Joshua and Caleb joined with Moses and Aaron, tearing their clothes in shame. What did they share with the congregation? vv. 7–8
  - a. What word of caution did they give? v. 9
  
  - b. How did the all people collectively respond? v. 10

Joshua and Caleb presented a strong case to the people while Moses and Aaron remained silent. Before the people could take any action against their leaders, the Lord appeared in glory at the tabernacle of meeting.

*Selah . . .*

- ❖ Do you think the fears of the Israelites were justified—why or why not?
  
- ❖ What could they have done to readjust their perspective?
  
- ❖ Personal: Where do *you* need to readjust your perspective today?

## *Day Three:*

## The Plea for Pardon

Twelve spies had gone ahead to see for themselves what God had prepared beforehand for His people. All twelve saw the same things throughout forty days, but only two looked through the eyes of faith, while the remaining ten looked on in unbelief. Joshua and Caleb were not able to persuade the Israelites to accept their good report. What appeared as a great opportunity to these two men had become a huge obstacle to everyone else!

Read Numbers 14:1–25, along with Deuteronomy 1:19–33.

1. From your initial reading today, what understanding do you have about:
  - a. *The nature of man?*
  
  - b. *The nature of God?*
  
2. Focusing on the Numbers 14 passage, who does the Lord identify as the object of the peoples' disdain and unbelief? v. 11
  - a. *All the congregation* picked up stones to hurl at Joshua and Caleb (and possibly Moses and Aaron along with them); but who were they actually rejecting? v. 11
  
  - b. Compare verse 11 with Deuteronomy 1:31–33. In your own words, state why God would understandably be angry with them.
  
3. What did God determine to do with His people? v. 12

Unbelief, if left unchecked, will result in God's judgment. The people had refused God; now God would refuse them and punish them. Announcing that He would strike them down with a plague, Moses once again intercedes on behalf of the people to gain their pardon from immediate extinction!

4. What formed the basis of Moses' appeal to God?
  - a. vv. 13–16
  
  - b. vv. 17–19

Moses did not make his plea based on the worthiness of the nation, for indeed, they were not worthy of pardon. Instead he appeals to the compassionate nature of God and the honor of God's name among even His enemies. And Moses' prayer does prevail: "*I have pardoned according to your word*" (v. 20). The pardon was from immediate death, but the people were not free from God's discipline.

5. What form of discipline would God carry out? v. 23

6. Why would Caleb be allowed to enter the Promised Land? v. 24

### *Look closer . . .*

Nearly all of the Israelites had a spirit of fear, but Caleb had a spirit of faith that enabled him to follow the Lord fully while the others were turning away! Forty years would come and go while all the unbelieving Israelites passed away, only Caleb (and Joshua) would remain. Caleb would live to the age of 85 before realizing the promise.

God Himself said that Caleb had a *different spirit*, meaning Caleb took God at His Word even when it appeared to everyone else to be an outrageous thing to do! As God looks down on *you* today, is He able to say that *you* have this *spirit of faith* that enables *you* to *follow Him fully*? Please share your thoughts.

- ❖ Take a moment to reflect on Hebrews 11:6; write down what it says to you. Do *you* believe?

*Review this week's memory verse.*

## *Day Four:* Presuming Upon God's Grace

From this point on the Lord would not help or support any attempt the Israelites would make to enter the land. He instructed the people to turn back and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea (v. 25).

Read Numbers 14:26–45.

Apparently the Lord's discipline of His people had not stopped their complaining against Him. Their earlier cry: "If only we had died in the wilderness" (v. 2) would now come to pass.

1. Who did God declare would die in the wilderness? v. 29
  - a. Who was exempt from this fate? v. 30
  - b. Whom would God actually bring into the land? v. 31

The sons of those who rebelled would possess the land, but would wander as shepherds in the desert for forty years—one year for each day their fathers had explored the land and then rejected God (vv. 34–35).

2. What happened to the men sent by Moses to spy out the land? vv. 36–37
  - a. Why was their sin so much greater than that of the people?

Now suddenly faced with the consequences of their rebellion and thinking they new better than God, some of the people decide to take matters into their own hands. Refusing to go into the land when God told them to take it, now they would try to take it when God told them not to!

3. In your own words, describe the digression of the people toward certain defeat in verses 40–45.
  - a. *Their presumptive attitude:*
  - b. *Their foolish act:*
  - c. *Moses' strong warning:*
  - d. *The devastating result:*

It's foolish to presume you know more than God; but it can be injurious to you and to others to attempt to run ahead of God and deliberately disobey His Word! Better to feel the pain of God's discipline than endure the consequences of your own folly! "For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." Hebrews 12:6

*Review this week's memory verse.*

*Day Five:*

## Praying with Purpose

**Selah . . .** Be still and consider how to *work out* in your daily life what God has *worked into* your heart through your study of His Word. Then pray each aspect through.

❖ **A Point Pondered:** Is there an example from the lesson or a truth from Scripture that has taken on a new meaning this week? Please note it below.

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❖ **A Path Pursued:** Knowledge must be applied in order to make a difference. Name one thing you can act upon in obedience to the Holy Spirit's leading.

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❖ **A Promise Possessed:** If God has spoken a particular verse or word of hope to your heart, write it down and pray it back to Him.

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❖ **A Praise Proclaimed:** God loves to hear you praise Him! What aspect of God's character particularly blessed you this week? Will you praise Him today?

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❖ **A Prayer Presented:** Write out the most pressing request on your heart and lift it to the Lord.

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**Other requests:**

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## Notes