

Opening Testimony:

The Multiplication of the Legacy.

“Multiplication is Beginning to Happen, Beyond these Initial 12 Men.”

In 2019, Pastor Ryan introduced me to the Key2Changes Discipleship trainings. I have been teaching and training leaders and pastors for the past 15 years but saw a need for true and strong Biblical discipleship and material to use to do it. Key2Changes has met that need and I have been using it effectively. Currently I am personally involved in online discipleship with 12 men, young and older, pastors and leaders, in 7 countries. As it happened with Jesus’ ministry, multiplication is beginning to happen, beyond these initial 12 men.

In northern India, where there is heavy and consistent persecution and opposition to Christianity, Key2Changes began with 1 pastor and ministry leader but is now being engaged by approximately 150 leaders/pastors, with an additional 350 others under their ministries. The material is being voluntarily translated into Hindi, with completion slated by the end of June 2020. Reports are that many are being taught Biblical truths and principles never heard before! **Only eternity will know the full impact of Key2Changes in this most needy area!**

Simultaneously, while seeking to engage a single pastor/leader in Macedonia, he took Key2Changes, made copies of the first 3 lessons, in English, and gave to 6 other local pastors within his network. They read and studied the material and reported that this was ‘new teaching they had never seen or heard’ and that the teaching ‘was excellent and so needy among regional pastors’! Then this lead pastor requested permission to take Key2Changes, all 58 lessons, and translate into the most prominent of 6 languages used in the region, with the goal of discipling up to 30 local pastors. In addition, these first 6 pastors see Key2Changes for use in teaching their congregations since it is so well documented and clear with Biblical truth and principles.

Lastly, the Key2Changes course was shared with a foreign missionary living in Nairobi, Kenya, for the purpose of personal discipleship. Yes, that’s right, discipleship is needed by so many, even missionaries! To date, this missionary is progressing through the lessons with a passion and urgency for personal growth but also with a vision to reach new believers in surrounding Muslim-dominating countries, using Key2Changes.

“Only eternity will know the full impact of Key2Changes in this most needy area!”

Keith H., International Disciple Maker

Week 34 - Shelach Lecha (Send Forth) Numbers 13:1–15:41; Joshua 2:1–24; Romans 4:1–25

“How God Tests His People”

“Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, ‘Send out for yourself (*shelach lecha* שְׁלַח-לְךָ) men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers’ tribes, every one a leader among them.’”
Numbers 13:1–2

Last week in reading “When You Rise” (*Behaalotecha*), God commanded Aaron to light the lamps of the Menorah, and the tribe of Levi was initiated into the service of the Sanctuary.

“Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to Aaron and say to him, “When you set up (*behaalotecha* בְּהַאֲלוֹתֶךָ) the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the Menorah.’”” Numbers 8:1–2

Night Shines as Day

It is written, “even the **DARKNESS** is not **dark** to you; the **night** is **bright** as the **DAY**, for **darkness** is as **light** with you,” Psalm 139:12

... or as it is described in its original language, “even the **misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, and wickedness** is NOT **made dark or concealed** to you; the **adversity** is **becoming light - luminous - set on fire as continual day**, for **misery and enlightenment** are alike to you,” Psalm 139:12

Some practical ways we will learned last week, shinning as lights in the midst of darkness is:

“When You Step Up”

1. by refusing to complain and, instead,
2. express gratitude in all things,
3. rejoicing in the Lord always.

Philippians 2:12-15

Lights in the World

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have *always* “*obeyed*”, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, “**work out your own salvation with fear and trembling**”, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for **HIS good pleasure**. **Do everything without complaining or arguing** so that you will **prove yourselves** to be blameless and innocent, children of God **above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world.**”

Last week we looked at a Prophetic Biblical Example of practical ways we can shine as lights in the midst of darkness, and the picture of the Lighting of the Menorah and the source of its Light, the “Two Olive Trees” from the Reading from Zechariah 2-4:

Rebuilding Jerusalem and the Second Temple (today God's people – "The Temple") is a huge task. And through the Prophet Zechariah, God reassures both **Joshua** (a type of Messiah, the one who leads his people into the promise land – out of bondage) and **Zerubbabel** (a type of Messiah, finishing the Temple) that He is behind the initiative. (a prophetic picture of the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Third Temple in the Last Days)

As well as, we learned several practical ways we can shine as lights in the midst of darkness when "When We Step Up" (or Light the Lamp), from the reading from Numbers 8-12, "When We Step Up":

By igniting the hidden potential in others, by observing, teaching and influencing others through God's teaching and instruction, assisting them in the development of their observance, teaching and influencing so that their lamp independently glows and, in turn, kindles the potential in others.

By allowing God to purify and refine our faith like gold, through testing, while allowing Him to also hammer us into the representation of the fire of the Divine Light, through his one Body, one Faith, one Spirit, and one Baptism, of God's good news being spread throughout the entire world.

As we pursue the Lord, we also pursue purity in our attitudes, our speech, and our ministry.

(When We Step Up . . .) To God's "Retirement Plan", for each one of our lives, in becoming a "Watchman on the Wall".

(When We Step Up . . .) To allowing each stage of our lives to be a place of sanctification for our lives, a "Tent of Meeting", where God has brought us to equip us, that we might not lacking anything, where God's presents resides, between Heaven and earth.

(When We Step Up . . .) To sound an alarm (acknowledge our call to repentance, our return to the Lord; acknowledge our call to appointed times, our exact divine appointments with the Lord; acknowledge our call to war, our victory with the Lord) with the trumpets, that we are remembered before the Lord, and be saved from our enemies.

(When We Step Up . . .) To refuse to complain and, instead, express gratitude in all things.

(When We Step Up . . .) To share in God's empowerment in our lives, by giving away, freely, what God has, freely, given to us, His "BETTER" Way, His "BETTER" Truth, and His "BETTER" Life, which ENHANCES our lives, rather than diminishing our lives (like our ways do, our truths do, and our lives do).

(When We Step Up . . .) To humbly setting ourselves apart for the things that are important to God, that others might see, hear, know and be lead by God into eternal things and not temporal things.

Psalm 18:28

"For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness."

This week's reading describes **how God tests the Israelites** by sending out 12 **meraglim** (spies) to check out the situation in the Promised Land (as God had commanded them) before going in to take possession of it.

Numbers 13-15

Numbers 13:1-2

Spies Sent into Canaan

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²"Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which **I am giving to the people of Israel**. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them."

⁸See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.' **Deuteronomy 1:8**

Numbers 13:3-20

³So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran, according to the command of the Lord, all of them men who were heads of the people of Israel. ⁴And these were their names: From the **tribe of Reuben** (1), Shammua the son of Zaccur; ⁵from the **tribe of Simeon** (2), Shaphat the son of Hori; ⁶from the **tribe of Judah** (3), Caleb the son of Jephunneh; ⁷from the **tribe of Issachar** (4), Igal the son of Joseph; ⁸from the **tribe of Ephraim** (5), **Hoshea** (Joshua) the son of Nun; ⁹from the **tribe of Benjamin** (6), Palti the son of Raphu; ¹⁰from the **tribe of Zebulun** (7), Gaddiel the son of Sodi; ¹¹from the **tribe of Joseph** (8) (that is, from the tribe of Manasseh), Gaddi the son of Susi; ¹²from the **tribe of Dan** (9), Ammiel the son of Gemalli; ¹³from the **tribe of Asher** (10), Sethur the son of Michael; ¹⁴from the **tribe of Naphtali** (11), Nahbi the son of Vophsi; ¹⁵from the **tribe of Gad** (12), Geuel the son of Machi. ¹⁶These were the names of the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land. **And Moses called Hoshea the son of Nun Joshua** ("God shall Save").

¹⁷Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, "Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country, ¹⁸and **see what the land is**, and whether *the people* who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many,¹⁹ and whether *the land* that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether *the cities* that they dwell in are camp or strongholds,²⁰ and whether *the land* is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. **Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land.**" Now **the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.**

The Promised Land Is Bountiful

“**Be of good courage** (have Faith that what I tell you is True). And **bring some of the fruit** (you can judge my Word by its Fruit, good fruit does not come from a bad tree, and bad fruit does not come from a good tree, **Matthew 7:18**) of the land.’ Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes.” **Numbers 13:20**

God **instructed** (permitted) Moses to **send one leader from each of the 12 tribes of Israel to scout out the land of Canaan**. Among the spies were Caleb, son of Jephunneh from the Tribe of Judah and Hosea (Hoshea), son of Nun from the Tribe of Ephraim. Later, Moses changed Hosea’s name to Joshua (a type of Christ).

Instructed (permitted); ²⁰And I said to you, ‘You have come to the hill country of the Amorites, **which the Lord our God is giving us**.’ ²¹See, the Lord your God has set the land before you. Go up, take possession, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has told you. **Do not fear or be dismayed.**’ ²²Then all of you came near me and said, ‘**Let us send men before us, that they may explore the land for us and bring us word again of the way by which we must go up and the cities into which we shall come.**’ ²³The thing seemed good to me, and I took twelve men from you, one man from each tribe. ²⁴And they turned and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshcol and spied it out. ²⁵And they took in their hands some of the fruit of the land and brought it down to us, and brought us word again and said, ‘**It is a good land that the Lord our God is giving us.**’

²⁶“**Yet you would not go up, but rebelled against the command of the Lord your God.**” ²⁷And you murmured in your tents and said, ‘Because the Lord hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. ²⁸Where are we going up? Our brothers have made our hearts melt, saying, “The people are greater and taller than we. The cities are great and fortified up to heaven. And besides, we have seen the sons of the Anakim there.”’ ²⁹Then I said to you, ‘**Do not be in dread or afraid of them.**’ ³⁰**The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight for you,** just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes. ³¹and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.’ ³²Yet **in spite of this word you did not believe the Lord your God.**” **Deuteronomy 1:20-32**

“**in spite of this word you did not believe the Lord your God**”: implying God was not big or strong or faithful or real enough to defeat them. God led them the entire way, they only had to Follow Him.

They were to go in with courage.

Numbers 13:21-25

²¹So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath. ²²They went up into the Negeb and came to Hebron. Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, were there. (Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) ²³And they came to the Valley of Eshcol and cut down from there a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and they carried it on a pole between two of them; they also brought some pomegranates and figs. ²⁴That place was called the Valley of Eshcol,^[a] because of the cluster that the people of Israel cut down from there.

Report of the Spies

²⁵**At the end of forty days** they returned from spying out the land.

The Number 40

Why were the spies scouting the land of Canaan for 40 days? Why not a month or two weeks?

The number 40 is significant in the Bible as it is the **number of testing, preparation and leadership**, as well as the **harbinger of something new**. (**Jewish Wisdom in the Numbers**)

We see this pattern many times in the Scriptures:

- In a dramatic new beginning, rain fell for **40** days and nights during the Flood before the waters stopped and the world was repopulated. (*Genesis 7:4*)
- Moses lived in Egypt for **40** years, was prepared for leadership in Midian for 40 years; and finally led the children of Israel in the wilderness for **40** years as a new nation.
- Moses fasted on Mount Sinai for **40** days and nights before he went down the mountain with the Ten Commandments.
“Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant — the Ten Commandments.” (*Exodus 34:28*)
- Goliath challenged the Israelites twice a day for **40** days before David defeated him, which began a great following by the people. (*1 Samuel 17:16*)
- Jesus was tested by the devil in the wilderness for **40** days before He began His public ministry.
“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’” (*Matthew 4:1–3*)
- The period from the resurrection of Jesus to His ascension was **40** days, a period of preparing the disciples for the work that lay ahead. (*Acts 1:3*)

Numbers 13:26-30

²⁶And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷And they told him, “**We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.**” ²⁸**However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large.** And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan.”

³⁰**But Caleb** quieted the people before Moses and said, “**Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are ‘well able’ to overcome it.**”

"well able to overcome it": Why? Because God Said So!

⁸ See, I have set the land before you. Go in and take possession of the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them and to their offspring after them.' Deuteronomy 1:8

10 Spies Inspire Fear Rather Than Faith

After 40 days, all 12 spies essentially testified to the entire Israelite community and Moses that the land "does flow with milk and honey!" just as God had promised. Despite that, they also saw that the cities were fortified and that giants lived in the Land.

Rather than focusing on the great fruitfulness of the Land, they focused, instead, on the great size of the inhabitants in contrast to their own smallness.

WE ARE NOT ABLE TO GO UP AGAINST THE PEOPLE; FOR THEY ARE STRONGER THAN WE (13:30)

"For they are stronger than we": They said this even regarding God Himself ("then we" means "from he"): Even He cannot remove them from there.

Their report caused the nation to lose faith in their ability to conquer the Holy Land, despite God's promises. In effect, saying that "they are mightier than He", that the conquest of the Holy Land is beyond the capacity of the Almighty Himself!

Numbers 13:30

Caleb tried to counter their defeatist attitude by assuring the people, "We are well able to overcome it" with God's help. He urged them, "Let us go up at once and occupy it." Numbers 13:30

Numbers 13:31-33

³¹ Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." ³² So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. ³³ And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

"than we are": 'the people' are bigger than God Almighty.

"a land that devours its inhabitants": it consumes one's time and energy with its physical demands and infringes on one's capacity to study the divine wisdom of Torah and meditate upon its truths. They were unwilling to relinquish their spiritual utopia for the entanglements of an earth-bound life. For in the desert, miracles were the stuff of their daily lives (daily manna and water, cloud of glory (God's presence, leading, protect, and shelter), clothes that did not wear out, snakes and scorpions destroyed).

"the Nephilim": the children of fallen angels and women.

Numbers 14:1-4

The People Rebel

¹ Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. ² And 'all the people of Israel' grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

Numbers 14:3-4

In their apprehension, they forgot how the Lord had sent ten plagues and even parted a sea for them, so they cried more: "Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. ... We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt." Numbers 14:3-4

Of course, this is not the first time the people wanted to go back to Egypt, there was the Red Sea **Exodus 14:12** (a miracle), the Manna **Exodus 16:3** (a miracle), the Quail **Numbers 11:5** (a miracle, along with a judgement), etc.

Throughout their wilderness journey, they complained to Moses and about Moses for many reasons. Each time, they witnessed God's judgments and mercy. Yet, they still did not fully apprehend His love for them, nor His ability to keep His promise to give them a land of their own.

What was Actually Happening Spiritually, in spite of what was being Seen Naturally, if the Spies only Took God at His Word:

Deuteronomy 2:7

⁷ For the Lord your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands, He knows your going through this great wilderness, These forty years the Lord your God has been with you. You have lacked nothing."

Faith Moves Us into His Promises

- God had already put defeat into the hearts of their enemy.

Rahab Hides the Spies

2 And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. ² And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land." ³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land." ⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. ⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." ⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. ⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof ⁹ and said to the men, "**I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.** ¹⁰ For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. Joshua 2:1-11

- God had already put the Army of God in place ahead of them to fight for them.

The Commander of the Lord's Army

5 ¹³ When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" ¹⁴ And he said, "No; but **I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.**" And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" ¹⁵ And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. Joshua 5:13-15

Deuteronomy 1:29-33

²⁹ Then I said to you, 'Do not be in dread or afraid of them. ³⁰ **The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight for you,** just as he did for you in Egypt before your eyes, ³¹ and in the wilderness, where you have seen how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, all the way that you went until you came to this place.' ³² Yet in spite of this word you did not believe the Lord your God, ³³ who went before you in the way to seek you out a place to pitch your tents, in fire by night and in the cloud by day, to show you by what way you should go.

- God had already given the Land and the People into their Hand, as He had promised.

The Fall of Jericho

6 Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. ² And the Lord said to Joshua, "**See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.** ³ You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. ⁴ Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. ⁵ And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him." ⁶ So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord." ⁷ And he said to the people, "Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the Lord" . . .

. . . ¹⁵ On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. ¹⁶ And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city. ¹⁷ And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. ²⁷ So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land. Joshua 6:1-27

Now in the land that their parents so feared, the next generation of Israelites witness God move and have great faith, being "fully convinced that God is able to do whatever He promises." Romans 4:21

Numbers 14:5-12

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel. ⁶ And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸ If the Lord delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey.

⁹ Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them." ¹⁰ Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

¹¹ And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? ¹² I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

Numbers 14:13-19

Moses Intercedes for the People

¹³ But Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, ¹⁴ and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O Lord, are in the midst of this people. For you, O Lord, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵ Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, ¹⁶ 'It is because "the Lord was not able" to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.' ¹⁷ And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, ¹⁸ 'The Lord is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.' ¹⁹ Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

Numbers 14:12

Moses Intercedes for the People

"I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they." Numbers 14:12

Because of their rebellion and unbelief during this TEST of faith, God threatened to destroy the entire community of Israel instantly and start all over again with Moses.

God gave Moses this same opportunity in Scripture Reading "When You Take", Week 21, when the people He had just delivered from bondage worshiped a Golden Calf instead of Him. Exodus 32:9-10

Being the most humble man on the face of the earth, however, Moses refused again to accept God's offer to replace Israel.

Instead, he appealed to the Lord's merciful nature, asking to forgive the people — the same people who railed against Moses and Aaron and threatened to stone Caleb and Joshua just a short time earlier. Moses reminded the Lord:

Numbers 14:18-19

"The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, ... Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." Numbers 14:18-19

Moses also appealed to the Lord's reputation as a God of integrity who is able to do all that He promises. Moses told Him:

"They [the Egyptians] have heard that you, O LORD, are in the midst of this people. ... if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, 'It is because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.'" Numbers 14:14-16

Because of Moses' intercession and his appeal to God's reputation and merciful nature, God relented from completely destroying the entire nation of Israel; nevertheless, He decreed judgment on those who refused to trust in God the way Joshua and Caleb trusted in God.

Numbers 14:20-25

God Promises Judgment

²⁰ Then the Lord said, "I have pardoned, according to your word. ²¹ But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it. ²⁴ But my servant Caleb, because he 'has a different spirit' and 'has followed me fully', I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it. ²⁵ Now, since the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valleys, turn tomorrow and set out for the wilderness by the way to the Red Sea."

"have put me to the test" (v.22) these ten times (10 is the number for judgement; man here have judged God) and "have not obeyed my voice".

Numbers 14:20-24

"I have forgiven them, as you asked. Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the LORD fills the whole earth, not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times — not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. But because my servant Caleb has a DIFFERENT SPIRIT and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it." Numbers 14:20-24

The entire generation (ages 20 and up) who had just been counted in the census would not enter the Promised Land they so feared; instead, they would die in the wilderness; that is, all but Joshua and Caleb would live to enter the Land.

Thus, it came to pass that on the Ninth of Av, a day which was to bode many tragedies for the people of Israel,

The ancient rabbinic sages held that the ninth of Av was preordained to be a day of tragedy. It is said that God marked this day for tragedy because of the incident in Numbers 13-14 that took place in the wilderness on this day. Moses had sent spies to scout the Promised Land, and based on their frightened report, the people wept at the prospect of entering such a formidable land full of giants. God declared to them, "You wept without cause; I will therefore make this an eternal day of mourning for you." It is said that God then decreed that on the ninth of Av the Temple would be destroyed and Israel would go into exile.

God informed Moses that the generation that received the Torah at Sinai was not fit to enter the Land of Canaan.

Numbers 14:26-30

²⁶ And the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, ²⁷ **"How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me. ²⁸ Say to them, 'As I live, declares the Lord, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you: ²⁹ your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me, ³⁰ not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun.**

"what you have said in my hearing I will do to you": God allowed them to speak their own future into existence "have put me to the test" these *ten times* (10 is the number for judgement; man here have judged God) and "have not obeyed my voice".

Numbers 14:31-35

³¹ **But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected.** ³² But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. ³³ And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness. ³⁴ According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.' ³⁵ I, the Lord, have spoken. Surely this will I do to all this wicked congregation who are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall come to a full end, and there they shall die."

"shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years": Moses was a shepherd for 40 years being tested.

1 Peter 1:7 & Romans 5:3-4

1 Peter 1:7

⁷ so that the **tested genuineness of your faith**—more precious than gold that perishes though it is **tested by fire**—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:3-4

³ Not only that, but **we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,** ⁴ and **endurance produces character,** and **character produces hope.**

The reason they wondered in the Wilderness for 40 years was because of 'unbelief'.

Numbers 14:36-45

³⁶ And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing up a bad report about the land - ³⁷ **the men who brought up a bad report of the land - died by plague before the Lord.** ³⁸ Of those men who went to spy out the land, only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive.

Israel Defeated in Battle

³⁹ When Moses told these words to all the people of Israel, **the people mourned greatly.** ⁴⁰ And they rose early in the morning and went up to the heights of the hill country, saying, "Here we are. We will go up to the place that the Lord has promised, for we have sinned." ⁴¹ But Moses said, "Why now are you transgressing the command of the Lord, when that will not succeed? ⁴² Do not go up, for the Lord is not among you, lest you be struck down before your enemies. ⁴³ For there the Amalekites and the Canaanites are facing you, and you shall fall by the sword. **Because you have turned back from following the Lord, the Lord will not be with you.**" ⁴⁴ But they presumed to go up to the heights of the hill country, although neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses departed out of the camp. ⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and defeated them and pursued them, even to Hormah.

The God forgives us when we Repent for not following Him, we can not escape the consequences of our actions. God will not desert us, but there will be changes that we have to live with and accept.

Numbers 15:1-3

Laws About Sacrifices

¹ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, **When you come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving you,** ³ and you offer to the Lord from the herd or from the flock a food offering or a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering or at your appointed feasts, to make a pleasing aroma to the Lord,

Timeline of the Actual Events – (also, a Picture of the Prophetic of future events/fulfillments)

Early June

Feast of Weeks / Pentecost

Mid-to-Late June

Be of good courage and bring some of the fruit of the land." Now the time was **the season of the first ripe grapes**. Numbers 13:20

Late July

The new wine festival came 50 days or seven weeks after Pentecost. Until new wine was offered, no one could drink any of the new juice (Temple Scroll, columns 19-21).

Late July / Early August

9th of Av the date of the Spies Bad Report (also, later in history was the same day of the destruction of the first and second temple and signing of the first Holocaust Camp, back during WWII. The new wine festival came 50 days or seven weeks after Pentecost. Until new wine was offered, no one could drink any of the new juice (Temple Scroll, columns 19-21).*

Also, the beginning of the season of when the King is in the Field, 40 days before the Feast of Atonement.

*Now let's look at the major crops after Pentecost. Grapes were the first major crop to ripen: “In a good year, when the [grain] yield was great, threshing and grape picking overlapped” (page 62). That would be in June, technically in spring, since summer doesn't officially start until the solstice, June 22.

The importance of grapes and olives is illustrated by the fact that the Essenes had wine and oil first fruits festivals similar to the biblical firstfruits offering for grain. These festivals also indicate the relative timing of these crops. The new wine festival came 50 days or seven weeks after Pentecost. Until new wine was offered, no one could drink any of the new juice (Temple Scroll, columns 19-21). Fourteen weeks after Pentecost, shortly before the Feast of Trumpets, was the new olive oil festival. No one could use new olives until some oil had been offered (columns 21-22). <https://archive.gci.org/articles/harvest-seasons-of-ancient-israel/>

38 years later, the Feast of the Lord that God's people are commanded to observe when they first enter into the Promise Land:

Joshua 5:10-12

First Passover in Canaan

¹⁰ While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

Numbers 15:4-16

⁴ then he who brings his offering shall offer to the Lord a grain offering of a tenth of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with a quarter of a hin of oil; ⁵ and you shall offer with the burnt offering, or for the sacrifice, a quarter of a hin of wine for the **drink offering** for each lamb. ⁶ Or for a ram, you shall offer for a grain offering two tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with a third of a hin of oil. ⁷ And for the drink offering you shall offer a third of a hin of wine, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. ⁸ And when you offer a **bull as a burnt offering** or sacrifice, to fulfill a vow or for peace offerings to the Lord, ⁹ then one shall offer with the bull a grain offering of three tenths of an ephah of fine flour, mixed with half a hin of oil. ¹⁰ And you shall offer for the drink offering half a hin of wine, as a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

¹¹ “Thus it shall be done for each **bull or ram**, or for each **lamb** or **young goat**. ¹² As many as you offer, so shall you do with each one, as many as there are. ¹³ Every native Israelite shall do these things in this way, in offering a food offering, with a **pleasing aroma** to the Lord. ¹⁴ And if a stranger is sojourning with you, or anyone is living permanently among you, and he wishes to offer a food offering, with a pleasing aroma to the Lord, he shall do as you do. ¹⁵ For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you, a statute forever throughout your generations. You and the sojourner shall be alike before the Lord. ¹⁶ One law and one rule shall be for you and for the stranger who sojourns with you.”

"When more than one kind of offering was presented (as in [Numbers 6:16-17](#)), the procedure was usually as follows:

1. sin offering or trespass offering,
2. burnt offering,
3. peace offering and grain offering (along with a drink offering).

This sequence furnishes part of the spiritual significance of the sacrificial system. **First**, sin had to be dealt with (sin offering or trespass offering). **Second**, the worshiper committed himself completely to God (burnt offering and grain offering). **Third**, fellowship or communion between the Lord, the priest and the worshiper (peace offering) was established. To state it another way, there were sacrifices of *penitence* (sin offerings and trespass offerings), consecration (burnt offerings and grain offerings) and communion (peace offerings)."

<http://www3.telus.net/public/kstam/en/tabernacle/details/offerings.htm>

Numbers 15:17-41

¹⁷ The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁸ “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, **When you come into the land to which I bring you** ¹⁹ and when you eat of the bread of the land, **you shall present a contribution to the Lord**. ²⁰ Of the first of your dough you shall present a loaf as a contribution; like a contribution from the threshing floor, so shall you present it. ²¹ Some of the first of your dough you shall give to the Lord as a contribution throughout your generations.

Laws About Unintentional Sins – Also known as the Feast of Atonement

²² “But if you sin unintentionally, and do not observe all these commandments that the Lord has spoken to Moses, ²³ all that the Lord has commanded you by Moses, from the day that the Lord gave commandment, and onward throughout your generations, ²⁴ then if it was done unintentionally without the knowledge of the congregation, all the congregation shall offer **one bull** from the herd **for a burnt offering**, a pleasing aroma to the Lord, with its **grain offering** and its **drink offering**, according to the rule, and one male goat for a sin offering. ²⁵ And **the priest shall make atonement for all the congregation of the people of Israel**, and they shall be forgiven, because it was a mistake, and they have brought their offering, a food offering to the Lord, and their sin offering before the Lord for their mistake. ²⁶ And all the congregation of the people of Israel shall be forgiven, and the stranger who sojourns among them, because the whole population was involved in the mistake.

²⁷ “If one person sins unintentionally, he shall **offer a female goat** a year old for a sin offering. ²⁸ And the priest shall make atonement before the Lord for the person who makes a mistake, **when he sins unintentionally, to make atonement for him, and he shall be forgiven**. ²⁹ You shall have one law for him who does anything unintentionally, for him who is native among the people of Israel and for the stranger who sojourns among them. ³⁰ **But the person who does anything with a high hand, whether he is native or a sojourner,**

reviles the Lord, and that person shall be cut off from among his people.³¹ Because he has despised the word of the Lord and has broken his commandment, that person shall be utterly cut off; his iniquity shall be on him.”

“shall be cut off”: i.e.

Matthew 18:15-20

"And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer. Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."

As a Gentile and a tax-gatherer. Individuals who were considered as not being a part of the congregation of Israel with the benefit of fellowship.

If two of you agree. This statement pertains to individuals coming together to make a judgment, as to whether something is to be permitted or forbidden. To take one or two more individuals to confront the offender *so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed* (Deuteronomy 19:15); and it is in this context that God says he will be in the midst of them, as one of the witnesses and judge.

1 Corinthians 5:1-5

Sexual Immorality Defiles the Church

¹It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. ²And you are arrogant! Ought you not rather to mourn? **Let him who has done this be removed from among you.** ³For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present, I have already pronounced judgment on the one who did such a thing. ⁴When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, ⁵you are to **deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.**

Hebrews 10:26-31

²⁶For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.** ²⁷but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

A Sabbathbreaker Executed

³²While the people of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. ³³And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation. ³⁴They put him in custody, because it had not been made clear what should be done to him. ³⁵And the Lord said to Moses, “The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.” ³⁶And all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death with stones, as the Lord commanded Moses.

Tassels on Garments

³⁷The Lord said to Moses, ³⁸“Speak to the people of Israel, and tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a cord of blue on the tassel of each corner. ³⁹And **it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the Lord, to do them, NOT TO FOLLOW AFTER YOUR OWN HEART AND YOUR OWN EYES, which you are inclined to whore after.** ⁴⁰So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God. ⁴¹I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the Lord your God.”

The Lessons for Us Today

What lessons may we learn from this account of Israel in the wilderness?

1. First, We Need to be People of Faith . . .

. . . seeing ourselves as sons and daughters of the King of kings and Lord of lords — and not tiny grasshoppers to be crushed under some giant's foot. We need to believe that no matter what challenge we face today, we are “well able to overcome it” with God's help.

This is the kind of faith that pleases God. Without it, it is impossible to please Him. **Hebrews 11:6**

2. Second, as people of faith, We Need to Guard Our Speech and Speak Forth Faith-Filled Words.

Why did the whole community of Israel die in the wilderness? **They reaped the fruit of their faithless, fearful words.**

The people said many times, “We will surely die in this wilderness,” and

God Allowed Them to Speak Their Own Future into Existence.

“**Say to them, ‘As I live,’** says the LORD, **‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you:** The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.” **Numbers 14:28-29**

For each of the 40 days that the Israelites spied out the land of Canaan, the Israelites would wander in the wilderness a year until that generation died—40 years. **Only Joshua and Caleb, who had a DIFFERENT SPIRIT and WHOLLY TRUSTED IN THE LORD would enter the Promised Land along with the next generation.**

“According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, namely forty years, and **you shall know My rejection. I the LORD have spoken this. I will surely do so to all this evil congregation** who are gathered together against Me. In this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.” **Numbers 14:34-35**

3. Third, We Need to Repent of Our Unbelief and Begin Trusting in God . . .

. . . or else we cannot move forward. And sometimes, our lack of faith may prevent us from moving forward in a particular area even after we repent.

In this reading, the Israelites were suddenly remorseful for their behavior and gathered up the courage to go up and take the Land, but it was too late.

Moses warned them, “**Do not go up,** for the Lord is not among you, lest you be struck down before your enemies,” but **they rebelled again,** went up in presumption and were, therefore, defeated by the Amalekites and Canaanites.

Also, the ten spies who had brought back the evil report of the Land were struck down by the Lord in a plague; but Joshua and Caleb were left alive.

God had rendered His final decision and they were now “not able” as they had spoken over themselves.

4. Fourth, We Should Be a Humble People Given to Intercession for Others.

Our faith matters to God!

Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

Next Week’s Reading:

Week 37 – Parasha Korach (Korah) – Numbers 16:1–18:32; 1 Samuel 11:14–12:22; Acts 5:1–11