



Mariner's **DISCOVERY Church**

OurMDC.org
(925) 354-1096
1641 Bixler Road,
Discovery Bay
California 94505

Program for Sunday, September 6, 2026.

Please welcome the worship music team this week!

Call to Worship: *At Your Name*

Revelation Song

Announcements for Sunday 9/6/2026

Thanks for joining our Worship Service this Sunday

- **The Pool is available for your use. You can signup in the carport. During the week, please contact the office at 925-354-1096 to make a reservation. Since we don't have a life guard on duty a liability waiver form will need to be filled out and signed.**
- **If you have any prayer requests, please fill out a Connect Envelope and place it in the wooden offering boxes in the back. Also, during the week you can email requests at: PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org**
- **PrayerRequest@OurMDC.org**

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Adoration *Egypt*

Selected Scriptures reading from Numbers 13, and 14

Message: *Believe the Report of the LORD*

Commemoration of Communion

Affirmation: *Thrive*

Close of Worship Service, Fellowship continues

Numbers 13:1-3 Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, 2 "Send out for yourself 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." 3 So Moses sent them from the wilderness of Paran at the command of the Lord, all of them men who were heads of the sons of Israel.

Numbers 13:27-33 Thus they told him, and said, "We went in to the land where you sent us; and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 "Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; and moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there.

30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." 32 So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. 33 "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

Numbers 14:1-10 Then all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. 2 All the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron; and 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 plunder; would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" 4 So they said to one another, "Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt."

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces in the presence of all the assembly of the congregation of the sons of Israel. 6 Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, of those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, "The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 "If the Lord is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us — a land which flows with milk and honey. 9 "Only do not rebel against the Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and the Lord is with us; do not fear them." 10 But all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Then the glory of the Lord appeared in the tent of meeting to all the sons of Israel.

Numbers 14:11-12 The Lord said to Moses, "How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? 12 "I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they."

Numbers 14:13-16 But Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for by Your strength You brought up this people from their midst, 14 and they will tell it to 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 eye to eye, while 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 slay this people as

one man, then the nations who have heard of Your fame will say, 16 'Because the Lord could not bring this people into the land which He promised them by oath, therefore He slaughtered them in the wilderness.

Numbers 14:17-19 "But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have declared, 18 'The Lord is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, 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 generations.' 19 "Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

Numbers 14:20 So the Lord said, "I have pardoned them according to your word,

Numbers 14:28-29 "Say to them, 'As I live,' says the Lord, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you; your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me.

Numbers 14:36-37 As for the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land and who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing out a bad report concerning the land, 37 even those men who brought out the very bad report of the land died by a plague before the Lord.

Hebrews 3:7-9 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,

"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE,

8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME,

AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS,

9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED Me BY TESTING Me,

AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS.

Hebrews 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Devotional: Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 1:13-14 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

God saves Israel at the Red Sea.

- **Egypt Overtakes Israel at the Sea (14:9).** Israel is positioned with the sea before them, mountains on other sides, and Egypt behind them, creating a crisis. God led them to this crisis.
- **Israel's Fear and Cry (14:10–12).** The people cry out to the LORD and complain to Moses. The next time fear rises, practice the discipline of separating your honest cry to God from any temptation to blame His appointed means for the difficulty you are in.
- **Moses' Faith-Filled Assurance (14:13–14).** This may be the invitation is to lay down the scheming and take up the stillness of faith.

- **God's Instruction and Protective Intervention (14:15–20).** God asks “Why are you crying out to Me?” God rebukes Israel's cry and commands them to move forward.
- **The Parting of the Red Sea (14:21–22).** The waters divide, forming walls on both sides. Moses' obedience did not cause the miracle. God could have parted the sea without Moses lifting a finger. Israel passes through the sea on dry ground.
- **Egypt Pursues Israel into the Sea (14:23–25).** Egyptians recognize divine intervention: “The LORD is fighting for them.” Can you name that old sin, situation, relationship, before God and ask Him to bring the same confusion to its power?
- **The LORD Destroys the Egyptian Army (14:26–28).** Egypt's entire military capacity to threaten Israel again was permanently and completely removed in a single morning. Do not settle for a partial fix to a besetting sin. Bring the whole of your struggle to God and ask Him for complete deliverance.
- **Israel Saved and Egypt Judged (14:29–31).** Israel recognizes the LORD's great power. Moses as a mediator is a type of Jesus Christ. See what God has done. Fear God rightly. Believe in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Theological implications of the Red Sea deliverance:

- The LORD is the Divine Warrior.
 - This a theme of the Old Testament. It reaches its full biblical theological climax in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Salvation is by grace, not by human effort.
 - Israel did not fight, did not negotiate, did not scheme and escape.
 - They had to stand still, walk forward in obedience, and watch God work.
- Sovereignty of God and human free will (hardening hearts of Pharaoh and his army) coexist. Divine sovereignty operates through and conforms human responsibility.
- Both judgment and salvation can be in the same act, when God delivers Israel, and destroys Egypt.
- Going from the fear of man to fear of the LORD. This is a study in the arc of transformation as a result of witnessing grace.
- This is a type of baptism and of union with Christ (Paul: 1 Corinthians 10:1-2). This is a picture of the old life (slavery) to the new life (freedom).

Takeaways:

- What happens when we face our own “Red Sea” moments; when circumstances cloud the path forward such that it seems humanly impossible and retreat seems the safer path to trust.
- There is a temptation to romanticize past bondage under present pressure. This is an outworking of a fallen heart and requires active resistance through remembering the past faithfulness of God.
- The people of God are called to discern between the kind of prayer that substitutes for obedience and the kind of prayer that accompanies and undergirds obedience. There are moments, once God's word is received, to go forward.
- The completeness of the judgment of Egypt is a sober warning that there is a limit to the patience of God.
- Christian baptism is a visible re-enactment of the believer's own passage from bondage to sin, through death into a new and resurrected life in Christ.

- The proper response to witnessing the power of God is to have a reverent awe that produces a durable faith, that will cast out lesser fears (greater reverence displaces lesser dread).

From the Red Sea deliverance to The Mission

- **Red Sea Crossing** Exodus 14 Deliverance from Pharaoh's army. Israelites enter the wilderness of Shur/Etham.
- **Marah** Exodus 15:22–26 Bitter (undrinkable) water made sweet.
- **Elim** Exodus 15:27 Oasis with twelve springs and seventy palm trees.
- **Wilderness of Sin** (and camp by the Red Sea) Exodus 16; Numbers 33:10–11 Manna and quail provided; first Sabbath instructions.
- **Rephidim** Exodus 17 Water from the rock; battle with the Amalekites (Moses' raised hands).
- **Wilderness / Mount Sinai** (Horeb) Exodus 19–40; Leviticus; Numbers 1–10 Arrival in the third month. Giving of the Law, covenant, golden calf incident, construction of the Tabernacle. They remain nearly a full year.
- **Kibroth-hattaavah ("Graves of Craving")** Numbers 11 After leaving Sinai; craving for meat, quail, and plague.
- **Hazereth** Numbers 11:35–12:16 Miriam's skin disease and seven-day quarantine.
- **Through the Wilderness of Paran to Kadesh-barnea** (in the Wilderness of Zin) Numbers 12:16; 13:1–26.
- Moses sends 12 spies.
- Clear instructions:
 - Assess the people, (strong or weak);
 - Assess the cities, (fortified or open);
 - Assess the land, (good or bad);
 - Bring back some fruit.
- Not if, the promise of God is true. Go see the shape of the promise you already have.
- "Be of good courage; " = watchword God uses for every generation to walk into a promise that requires courage to receive.
- Reconnaissance, data gathering, planning, honest assessment of difficulties are not unbelief.
- **Hudson Taylor:** "God's work done in God's way would never lack God's supply." Careful assessment and bold obedience were, for Taylor, never in tension.
- **William Carey:** "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God."
- Where has God called you to "spy out a land" be it a decision, a calling, a step of obedience; that requires honest, sober assessment of the difficulty before you?
- What would it look like this week to "be of good courage" in a specific situation where you have been assessing danger more than assessing God?

The Initial Report of the Spies (13:27-33)

- The report begins exactly right.
- Then comes one word, "Nevertheless," and the report turns.
 - The people are strong. The cities are fortified and very large. The sons of Anak are there.
- Caleb: Let's go win.
- The 10: We are not able.

- Same land. Same giants. Same cities. Opposite conclusion.
- The difference? Framing:
 - Seeing God in light of the challenges. “We are grasshoppers.”
 - Seeing the challenges in light of God and His promises.
- Unbelief is wrong perception of God. Unbelief distorts how we see ourselves and misinterprets facts about how others see us. It reports those facts as certainties.
- The bible names that kind of distorted report as “slander,” a form of lying in order to manipulate others to a decision with which the distorter agrees.
- Is there a “grasshopper” narrative you have believed about yourself?
- Can you bring that specific self-assessment to God in prayer this week?

The People’s Rebellion (14:1-10)

- The bad report does not stay contained to the 10 men who gave it.
- The entire congregation is weeping through the night.
- The whole camp is given over to despair instead of prayer.
- The congregation complains with the same words as what was voiced at the Red Sea.
 - Would we have died...
- “Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.”
- This is an attempt to reverse all of the work of God, to walk back into slavery.
- Moses and Aaron fall on their faces before the assembly: posture of desperate intercession.
- Joshua and Caleb tear the clothes in grief. They make their appeal:
 - The land is exceedingly good.
 - The LORD will bring them in if the nation is faithful.
 - Do not rebel against the LORD. Do not fear the people of the land. The LORD is with us.
- Congregation’s response: take up stones to kill them.
- God’s response: The Glory of the LORD at the tent of meeting interrupts the mob.
- Have you ever felt the pull to “return to Egypt;” to walk back toward an old, familiar bondage rather than press forward into an uncertain but promised future?

The Intercession of Moses (14:1-10)

- This is a short masterclass on how we are to pray for others:
 1. Moses appeals to the reputation of God (verse 13).
 2. Moses quotes the words of God back to Him (verses 17, 18). The character of God: slow to anger, abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression.
 3. Moses prays the request: “Pardon the iniquity according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now.”
- God’s response: I have pardoned them according to your word.
- But pardon does not erase every consequence.
- God’s justice and God’s mercy are not at war with one another. They are two expressions of the same Holy Character of God.
- Have my prayers for others been asking God to be consistent with His revealed character?
- Is there a specific attribute of God (patience, lovingkindness, faithfulness) I can use to pray back to Him in my current situation?
- Have you ever interceded for someone else knowing about a deserved consequence?

The Judgment of the Faithless Generation (14:29-36)

- Pardon is granted. Consequence still happens. Every person 20 years old who grumbled against the LORD will die in the wilderness.
- Pardon and discipline are not opposites in the hand of a merciful and holy God.
- The children (whom the spies had feared would become “prey”) will enter the land. The parents will not.
- The judgment:
 - One year for every day that the spies spent in the land = forty years.
 - The 10 spies die of a plague.
 - Joshua and Caleb are spared, because Caleb has a different spirit and followed God fully.
- The covenant does not end. The promise made to Abraham does not die with the unbelieving generation. It waits for the next one.
- Has it ever been your experience to receive both the forgiveness of God and the discipline of God at the same time?
- Is there a promise of God for you for which you are tempted to believe has “died” because of a past failure?

Theological Implications:

- Unbelief is not the absence of evidence. Unbelief is the refusal of evidence.
- The size of the obstacle should always be measured against the size of your God.
- A minority report can be a true report.
- The revealed character of God (and not human merit) is the only sufficient ground for intercessory prayer.
- Pardon and discipline are not contradictory. They are both expressions of the same holy love of God.
- The New Testament (Hebrews 3:7-4:11, I Corinthians 10:1-13) uses this incident as a mirror for every generation about the danger of apostasy.

Takeaways:

- Discern between a “spy report,” and a “faith report.”
- Guard your speech, especially in seasons of fear.
- Be willing to be a minority of two.
- Build a prayer life saturated with the words of God about Himself.
- Expect real consequences even after real forgiveness.
- Take the warnings in Hebrews seriously.

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Corinthians 11:25-26 In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

You are not alone. God is with you! MDC wants to help. We are here for you.

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