



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Wilderness Wanderings!

Lesson Text: Numbers 13-33

Focus Verses: Numbers 14:30-31 - ³⁰ Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. ³¹ But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.

Truth About Covenant: God desires His covenant people to believe His promises.

Covenant Context: As we conclude our study of Exodus and move past Leviticus (instructions for covenant worship) to the Book of Numbers, we learn that being faithful and faith-filled is key to walking in covenant with God. The children of Israel did not trust God and gave in to fear when God called them to claim the Promised Land, so God led them to wander in the wilderness until their generation—and their doubt-died off.

When the children of Israel spoke a slanderous report concerning the Promised Land, they were chipping away at the reputation of their living God. He had proven Himself to them repeatedly since they left Egypt, and now at the brink of the Promised Land, they were declaring Him unable to deliver on His promise. Their lack of faith caused them to miss what God had prepared for them, and for many of them became a sentence of death. **We must speak faith and not doubt our God.** He can deliver; He has already proven it. When you face overwhelming obstacles, do not slander the God who has already shown He is able to deliver you.

Our conversation matters. We must be careful that when we speak of situations in our lives, we are not slandering our God. If He has promised us, then it will come to pass because His Word is sure. When we face an obstacle, we must magnify our God more than our problem. Our victory begins with our words (Proverbs 18:21). Ten men spoke death into a camp of thousands, not just because they believed themselves to be like grasshoppers, but more importantly, they believed the enemy thought the same (Numbers 13:33). They spoke defeat about themselves, convinced the enemy also saw them as defeated. The power of ten brought a death sentence upon thousands. Forty years they wandered in the wilderness: one year for each day the spies spent in the Promised Land. The wilderness, which should have been a temporary place, became a permanent burial for them.

Only two men, Joshua and Caleb, continued to have faith in God to be their strength. Against the majority opinion, Joshua and Caleb never broke covenant with God. And because of their faithfulness to God, He was faithful to them, delivering them from death in the wilderness and into a land full of blessings and promise. Our faith in God overcomes our fear, and our conversation has consequences of good and bad. **Choose today, no matter the circumstances you are facing, no matter how you see yourself, to speak about the greatness of your God more than about your enemy.**

If you have obeyed God's plan of salvation according to Acts 2:38, we are blessed to have the supernatural help of the Holy Spirit to walk in covenant with God. The laws from the Old Testament only written on tables of stone have now been written on our hearts. When we say yes to the Spirit, we declare the Lord will be our God. We enter a new covenant with Him. However, we must learn from the children of Israel and not allow a lack of faith to cause us to rebel against God. We must have the spirit of Joshua and Caleb and determine we will live according to God's plan so we can be called God's covenant people.

The Old Testament covenant was a great document to guide the behavior of the Israelites in their relationship with God and with others. However, as wonderful and detailed as it was, it could not accomplish what it was created to do. Why not? Because humanity was not right. Humans needed to be changed from the inside out so they could learn to obey the covenant laws. When God rewrote the laws onto the hearts of humanity through the infilling of His Spirit, new people, new creations were born. These new people were right. The law of God was written on their hearts, and they were able to live right through His Spirit. When we allow God's covenant to lead our lives, we will want to be in the right relationship with God and with others. **Instead of focusing on putting the world together right, let's focus on getting ourselves in covenant with God.** "If a person is right, his world will be right."