

Israelites' test in the Wilderness

Review

Discuss the journey. Clearly God was up to something. He led the Israelites along a "chosen path" in order to prove to them He could lead them, provide for them, and protect them. At this point, their trust and faithfulness could be equated to a roller coaster ride. They were up and down. They trusted God when they could see His power manifested while at other times their faith wavered as they longed to go back to Egypt.

The Test

Read Numbers 13:1-3, 17-20

Read again, Numbers 13:2

Did you notice God said, "Which I give..." The land was theirs.

What specifically did God want them to notice 18-20?

Read 25. How long did they stay there?

What was their final report (26-29)?

What was Caleb's response and who was he?

Discussion

Caleb was one of the spies. He had seen the very things the other "spies" had seen. Why was his perspective different? They had witnessed the same things and the same people. Yet, Caleb had faith and they had fear?

Read

Notice their focus was primarily on the Amalekites. What had God done for them in the past concerning the Amalekites?

Verse 32 shares they declared the land devours the inhabitants. They stayed there 40 days and lived to come back and share what they had seen? What was their real problem?

The Bad report spread

Read Number 14:1

The people wept because of the report they heard. They had heard God's repeated voice and promises along the way. They had witnessed his miraculous power time and time again. Yet, in this moment they are overtaken with fear due to a bad report.

Whose report will you believe?

Read verse 14:2. Does that verse sound a bit redundant?

How does that make God feel when we continue walking in unbelief rather than belief?

What did they decide to do in verse 4?

God appointed Moses and their leader and he wanted them to go forth. Now, they have decided to make themselves a captain and go back to Egypt.

How did Joshua and Moses respond? Read verses 5-9

Record verse 8 here.

Notice they described their act as "rebellion against the Lord." They also reminded the people the Lord was with them and there was no need to fear.

How does this look in 2017?

Moses, Caleb, and Joshua were reminding the people of what God said and promised?

Read Numbers 14:11-16

Did you hear God mention His own reputation?

God's response is recorded in verses 22-23.

God said, "Surely they shall not see the land!"

This means that none of those among the generation that left Egypt would be able to see the land God had promised.

Everything was hinged on their belief. They failed to believe!

Because of this they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.

What are you missing because of unbelief?