

God's People in the Wilderness  
Christian Education  
*Numbers 14: Disobedience and Judgment*

P. Phillips  
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1. Review of previous week (chapter 13)
  - 1.1. Spies examine the land of Canaan
  - 1.2. Spies return with news of the land
    - 1.2.1. Good crops
    - 1.2.2. Land of milk and honey
    - 1.2.3. BUT
      - 1.2.3.1. The cities are well fortified
      - 1.2.3.2. Giants (Nephilim) live there
      - 1.2.3.3. Many enemies there, too
      - 1.2.3.4. WOE IS US!
  - 1.3. A note on the Nephilim (giants)
    - 1.3.1. Heavenly beings à la some Gen 6 interpretations
    - 1.3.2. Righteous line from Seth vs. evil line from Cain
    - 1.3.3. Rulers of the land that did whatever they pleased
  - 1.4. The people disheartened by the word of 10 spies
  - 1.5. Caleb (and later Joshua) give encouragement
  - 1.6. Rest of the spies continue their bad report
2. Numbers 14.1 – 10
  - 2.1. Vss. 1 – 4 Reaction of the people
    - 2.1.1. A night of bed-wetting

2.1.2. Grumbling against Moses

2.1.3. Blame the Lord

2.1.4. Appoint leader to return to Egypt

2.2. Vss. 5 – 10

2.2.1. Moses and Aaron fall on their faces—i.e., as in previous cases, they intercede

2.2.2. Caleb and Joshua try to still the crowd

2.2.2.1. It's a good land, and if the Lord is pleased, he will bring us into the land.

2.2.2.2. DO NOT REBEL

2.2.2.3. Our protection is greater than theirs

3. The Lord's word to Moses—vss. 11, 12:

<sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> I will smite them with pestilence and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they."

4. Moses's response—vss. 13 – 19

4.1.1. Moses reminds the Lord of the "mighty hand" he used to bring the people out of Egypt—so mighty that all the surrounding nations have heard about it

4.1.2. If you destroy these people the nations will think you were not able to bring the people into the land you promised and that's why you destroyed them. (I.e., think of your reputation.)

4.1.3. Remember, Lord, that you are "slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression (although you do not clear the guilty as per the second commandment).

4.1.4. Please pardon these people “according to the greatness of your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from *Egypt even until now* (my emphasis).”

5. The Lord’s response to Moses—vss. 20 – 38

5.1. “I have pardoned them according to your word.” BUT...

5.2. Those that have seen God’s miraculous signs (“have put Me to the test *these ten times*”) but rebelled will not enter the land

6. Interlude: What are “these ten times” the people have rebelled against the Lord?

<u>Incident</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Complaint</u>	<u>Response</u>
1	Ex 5	Moses made work harder by talking to Pharaoh	Moses questions the Lord
2	Ex 14	Chased by Pharaoh: “For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.”	The Lord divides the sea
3	Ex 17.1 – 7	People complain about thirst	Moses strikes the rock and water comes out
4	Ex 15.22 – 25a	People complain about the bitter water at <i>Marah</i>	Moses throws a tree into the bitter water to sweeten them—no punishment
5	Ex 16.1 – 4	People complain about hunger	God provides manna and quail—no punishment
6	Ex 32	Golden calf incident	3000 killed by the Levites on orders from the Lord via Moses
7	Num 11.1 – 3	General complaining at <i>Taberah</i>	Fire breaks out; some burned; Moses intercedes
8	Num 11.31 – 35	Complaints at <i>Kibroth-hattaavah</i> about the food—manna is disgusting to them	Quail provided, but the Lord sends a plague

9	Num 12	Aaron & Miriam complain about Moses's leadership	Miriam becomes leprous; Aaron and Moses intercede
10	Num 14.1 – 4	Fear of the giants; let's go back to Egypt	40-year wandering; plague on ten spies

7. The Lord pardons, but judgment will fall

7.1. Caleb (and Joshua, cf. vs. 30) will enter the land

7.2. Those 20 years old and older will die in the wilderness

7.3. The Lord will spare Caleb and Joshua (stated again)

7.4. The nation will suffer 40 years for this unfaithfulness—one year for each day the spies traveled thru the land

7.5. The spies that brought back the bad report struck w/ a plague

7.6. Joshua and Caleb (mentioned again)—but now this time Joshua's name is first

8. The people respond to the Lord's rebuke—vss. 39 – 45

8.1. "The people mourned greatly."

8.2. Next morning they come ready to fight—i.e., to fulfil what was initially commanded of them

8.3. Moses advises them not to go up, for they will not succeed, and they are transgressing the command of the Lord if they go up

8.4. The Amalekites and the Canaanites will defeat them

8.5. Moses and the ark remain in the camp (cf. Ex 17.8 – 13 for a previous battle against the Amalekites)

8.6. The Amalekites and the Canaanites defeat Israel and chase them out of the hill country

9. Lessons