

Friday, June 7, 2024 ▫ Read Numbers 13–14

Questions from the Scripture text: Who spoke to whom in 13:1? Whom, specifically, was Moses to send to do what (v2)? What is the Lord doing with that land? From where did Moses send them? Who from which tribes (v4–16)? What instructions did Moses give for the spying (v17–20), and what two concluding instructions? What time of year was it? Where did the spies go (v21–23)? What did they cut down, and how did they have to carry it? What else did they bring? How does the name of the valley indicate the greatness of the grapes (v24)? How long did they spy (v25)? Then what did they do (v26)? What did they say about the land (v27)? But what did they say about the people (v28–29)? Who did and said what in v30? Who opposed him by what words in v31? How did they then begin to speak about the land and its people (v32–33)? How did the people respond (14:1)? Against whom do they complain (v2)? What do they say (cf. 11:20)? Whom do they accuse in v3? What do they say would be better (v3–4)? How do Moses and Aaron respond (v5)? How do Joshua and Caleb respond (v6)? To whom do they speak (v7)? What do they say about the land? Whom do they describe in v8? How, then, do they urge the people to relate to the Lord and to the people of the land (v9)? But how do the congregation respond to them (v10a)? And Who responds to this how (v10b)? Who speaks to whom in v11? What does He ask? What does He propose to do (v12)? But how does Moses reason with the Lord not to do this (v13–16)? What does Moses ask YHWH to display greatly in v17? And in v18 (cf. Ex 34:6–7)? What does he ask YHWH to do in v19? How does he describe the whole of the journey so far? What does YHWH say He has done in v20? What does He say He will do (v21)? How will He show His glory to those who have thus far refused to heed it (v22–23)? For whom will He make an exception (v24)? Where does He now say to go, and why (v25)? Who spoke to whom in v26? What does He ask (v27)? What has He heard? What oath form does He use in v28? To what will their punishment correspond? What will happen to whom (v29, 32, cf. v2)? Who will be spared (v30)? And who else (v31, cf. v3)? What will their children have to do for how long (v33)? Why this number (v34)? How does He sup the verdict and sentence in v35? Who are the first to die (v36), in what manner (v37)? Who were spared (v38)? To whom does Moses relay the message (v39)? What do they now attempt to do (v40)? But what does Moses warn them about this (v41, cf. v25b)? Why will they be defeated (v42–43)? But what happens (v44)? With what result (v45)?

What should we “spy” about our circumstances? Numbers 13–14 prepares us for the evening sermon on the Lord’s Day. In these seventy-eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the great thing that we should see in every circumstance is the Lord Himself, what He is like, and what He has promised to do.**

Spying out the hearts of the people, 13:1–20. It becomes evident that the sending of the spies and the receiving of their report is a significant test for Israel. The entire nation is carefully represented in this test (14:1–16). The Lord does not need any spying, but just as Moses had valued the insight of Hobab (cf. 10:31), he gives the spies directions about how to carry out their spying mission with a good will (v17–20). Most significantly, he instructs them to be strong (v20, NKJ “be of good courage”). It is the land that the spies go to see, but what ends up being exposed are the hearts and minds of Israel.

The good grapes and the sour grapes, 13:21–33. The truth of the believer’s circumstances is that they offer fruit even greater than a grape cluster so big that it takes two men to carry it between them on a pole! The believer’s circumstances are bearing fruit unto eternal life. This is what God has told us. We know that it is true. But presentation and perception can turn our hearts exactly opposite the reality of the case. The spies bring a factual report up through v29. Apparently, the people are alarmed, because Caleb has to quiet them down to speak in v30. It is at this point that the other men seem to turn against Caleb and against the Lord. v31 is not leadership (cf. v2)!

The true leadership of Joshua and Caleb reminds the people that they need to “spy” one more thing, besides the fruit of the land and the strength of the people of the land. They need to “spy” YHWH! YHWH is with them, and the people of the land have lost their protection (14:7–9). Even as they sinned against God, it was the mercy of that God that had spared them thus far (cf. Gen 15:16). Remembering the truth about God should have kept them from viewing the situation in a way that was patently false—for instance, there were three total Anakim observed (14:22), but the wicked spies exaggerate this to “all the people” in v32 and fear-monger by calling them the Nephilim themselves in v33.

Cowards who should have been more afraid, 14:1–10. Truly, the people have no regard for YHWH. He had called the desire to return to Egypt a despising of Him (cf. 11:20). Now they do it again, even accusing YHWH Himself (14:1–4). Even though YHWH is in their midst, they are cowards at the thought of facing the Anakim. But they don’t have the sense to be afraid to attack Moses and Aaron! Moses and Aaron’s falling on their faces in v5 is before the congregation, implying that they are begging for their life. “Let us select a leader” in v4 apparently indicates that they are going to murder the current ones! Whether the rally to execute by stoning in v10 is against Moses and Aaron, or Caleb and Joshua, or all four, it is plain that these people are not at all factoring in the reality and almightiness of the Lord. Let us not think that if we had seen great miracles, we would have more faith. These people had seen great signs (cf. v11), but they are completely disregarding God.

The God Who is as He says, 14:11–25. Truly, the Lord condemns the people for rejecting Him (v11) and declares what they deserve (v12). But Moses makes strong arguments from God’s glory (v13–17), God’s covenant oath (v16), and God’s own words about His character (v18, cf. Ex 34:6–7). We could have a good, long devotional or sermon on prayer just in that verse! God is just as He has said. v19 gives a wonderful summary of His leading them thus far, “You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.” Is this not a sweet and true description of how He has been with you, dear reader? He has forgiven you from your beginning, even until now! So the Lord is as He said in Ex 34—right down to the part about not clearing the guilty. He will keep His promises (v23b), but those guilty of this incident will fall in the wilderness.

The God Who does as He says, 14:26–45. The Lord now gives Moses a word for the people, in line with what He has said to Moses. They wished to have died in the wilderness (v2), and now they will (v29, 32). They made show of being concerned for their children (v3), but it is these very children who will inherit the land (v31). Why YHWH speaks, He will surely do (v35). Amazingly (but not surprisingly), the people do not take Him at His word. They propose to “obey” now, in v40, as if this could make up for their sin (end of v30). Whenever we think that we can obey to make it up to God for our sin, such “obedience” is actually rebellion. Even worse, in their case, they had already received instruction to go toward the Red Sea (cf. v25). Moses warns them that the one thing (cf. v9) that would have protected them will not be a help to them; the Lord will not be with them (v42–43). But they go anyway (v44), and the result is as they were warned (v45). In mercy and in justice, the Lord does as He says.

Where is the Lord taking you? What circumstances seem to threaten you? What fruit is there in it for you? How will you be able to come through fruitfully and as more than conqueror? What will God be like? What will God do?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for reminding us that You Yourself are the single most important factor in every situation of our lives. You have promised us the peaceful fruit of righteousness unto our eternal blessedness in You. Grant unto us to trust You for it and not to fear our circumstances. Instead, make us to fear any unbelief or rebellion against You. Show Your power, mercy, and justice by bringing us safely into all that You have promised in Christ, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP46 “God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength” or TPH68A “God Shall Arise, and by His Might”

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Numbers 13 and 14. These are God’s words. And he always spoke to Moses saying. Send men to spy out, the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers, you shall send a man, Everyone a leader among them. So, Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Quran, according to the command of Yahweh, All of them men who were heads the children of Israel.

Now, these were their names from the tribe of Reuben, shamua, the son of zakor. In the tribe of Simeon. Shafat the son of Ori from the tribe of Judah. Caleb, the son of jafuna. From the tribe of issachar egal. The son of Joseph from the tibe of Ephraim hashaya, the son of nun.

The tribe of Benjamin Pulte, the son of raafu. From the tribe of zebulun Gabiel, the son of Saudi. From the tribe of Joseph, that is from the tribe of Manasseh. Getty, the son of Susie. From the tribe of Dan amiel. The son of Gamali from the tribe of Asher.

Sethur, the son of mikhail. From the tribe of naftali, not be the son of vafsi. From the tribe of God gayuel, the son of Malki. These are the names of the men, whom Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called hoshea the son of noon, Joshua. Then Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them.

Go up this way into the South And go up to the mountains and see. What the land is like, whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, few or many, Whether the land they dwell in is good or bad. Whether the city is they inhabit are like camps or strongholds, whether the land is Rich or poor and whether there are forests there or not be of good courage and bring some of the fruit to the land.

Now the time was the season of the first ripe grapes. So they went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of sin as far as Rahab near the entrance of hamath And they went up through the South and came to Hebron. The descendants of an ark. We're there.

Now, Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt. Then they came to the valley of eschkel and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes. They carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs. The place is called the valley of escal because of the cluster.

Which the men of Israel cut down there. When they returned from spying out the land after 40 days, Now, they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the wilderness of paranet Kadesh. They brought backward to them and to all the congregation.

And showed them the fruit of the land. Then they told them and said We went to the land where you sent us, it truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless, The people who dwell in the land are strong, the cities are fortified Very large.

Moreover, when we saw the descendants of anarch there, The amalekites dwell on the land of the South, the Hittites, the jebusites, and the amorites dwell in the mountains, the canaanites dwell by the Sea and along the banks of the Jordan Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, let us go up at once and take possession for.

We were well able to overcome it. But the man who had gone up with him said, we're not able to go up against the people for they are stronger than we And they gave the children of Israel, a bad report of the land which they had spied at saying.

The land through which we have gone as spies as a land that devours its inhabitants. And all the people whom we saw and enter men of great stature There we saw the Giants the descendants of anak. Came from the Giants. And we were like grasshoppers in our own sight and so we were in their sight.

So, all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, And the people went and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron. And the whole congregation said to them, if only, we had died in the land of Egypt, or if only we had died in this Wilderness, Why has Yahweh brought us to this land to fall by the sword that our wives and children should become victims.

Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt? So they said to one another, let us select a leader and return to Egypt. Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assemblance of the congregation of the children of Israel. But Joshua, the son of nin, and Caleb.

The son of Jafina who were among those who had spied at the land, tore, their clothes. And they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel saying the land. We passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If y'all light the lights in Austin, he will bring us into this land and give it to us a land which flows with milk and honey.

Only do not rebel against Yahweh. Nor fear the people of the land for they are bred. Their protection is departed from them and Yahweh is with us do not fear them. And all the congregations said to Stone them with stones. Now. The glory of Yahweh appeared. In the Tabernacle of meeting before, all the children of Israel.

Then he always said to Moses. How long will these people reject me? How long will they not believe me? With all the signs, which I have performed among them. I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you an ancient greater greater and mightier than Then Moses said to y'all.

Then the Egyptians will hear it for by your might. You brought these people up from among them. And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you Yahweh are among these people. That you Yahweh are seen face to face and your cloud stands above them and you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of Fire by night, Now, if you kill these people as one man.

Than the Nations, which have heard of your Fame will speak saying Because Yahweh was not able to bring this people to the land, which he swore to give them. Therefore he killed them in the wilderness. And now, I pray. Let the power of my Lord be great. Just as you have spoken saying Yahweh is long-suffering and abundant and mercy forgiving iniquity and transgression.

But he by no means clears, the guilty. Visiting the iniquity of the fathers and the children to the third and fourth generation, pardon the iniquity of this people. I pray according to the greatness of your mercy. Just as you have forgiven this people from Egypt until now Even until now, Then you always said, I have pardoned.

According to your word But truly, as I live all the Earth shall be filled, With the glory of Yahweh. Because all these men who have seen my glory and the signs, which I did in Egypt, and in the wilderness, And that put me to the test. Now, these 10 times, And have not heeded.

My voice. They certainly shall not see the land. Of which I swore to their fathers. Nor shall any of those who rejected me? See it. But my servant Caleb. Because he has a different spirit in him and has followed me fully. I will bring him into the land where he went.

And his descendants shall inherit it. Now, the amalekites in the canary notes, dwell in the valley. Tomorrow, turn and move out into the Wilderness. By the way, of the Red Sea. And you always spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complained against me?

I have heard. The complaints, which the children of Israel make against me. Say to them. As I live, says Yahweh. 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 are numbered according to your entire number.

From 20 years old and above except for Caleb. Son of jefuna. And Joshua son of noon. You shall by no means, enter the land, which I swore to make you dwell it. But your little ones whom you said would be victims. I will bring in. And they shall know the land, which you have despised.

But as for you, your carcasses shall fall. In this Wilderness. And your sons shall be shepherds in the wilderness 40 years. And bear the brunt of your infidelity. Until your carcasses are consumed in the wilderness. According to the number of the days in which you spied at the land.

40 days for each day. You shall bear your guilt one year, namely, 40 years. And you shall know my rejection. y'all, I 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, They shall die.

Now, the men who Moses sent to spy out the land who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land. Those very men. Who brought the evil report about the land. Died by the plague before Yahweh. But Joshua, the son of nun.

And Caleb, the son of jefuna remained alive of the men who went out, he went to spy out the land. Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel and the people mourned greatly. And they Rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain saying.

Here we are, and we will go up to the place which you always promised for we have sinned. And Moses said. Now why do you transgress the command of Yahweh? For this will not succeed. Do not go up. Lest you be defeated by your enemies? Free officers not among you for the amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you and you shall fall by the sword.

Because you have turned away from Yahweh, Yahweh will not be with you. But they presumed to go up to the Mountaintop. Nevertheless, neither the Ark of the Covenant of Yahweh. Nor Moses departed from the camp. Then the amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain. Came down and attacked them and drove them back.

As far. That's hormone.

Amen, no, since this reading of God's inspired and And Aaron toward,

A three-day J. From Sinai to the Wilderness of Qura. And There they were staging and getting ready to enter. The land. And, The Lord here. All right, gives command. To send spies. In part, so that People of Israel could with wisdom and diligence obey. the command of the Lord, this is the reason Why he teaches you to study and prepare?

And be wise in your life. But not because they needed all of this information in order finally to receive the land. Receiving the information and acting wisely upon it. Where the instruments by which the Lord was going to bring about what he had promised. But the Lord is the one who had promised.

And it would be the Lord who brought about his promise. And so, just like you remember Moses's, brother-in-law Habib. That Moses asked to come with them to help them along the way. we have to remember that wasn't intended to be. 40-Year commitment. Moses was suggesting to.

For him to be rewarded by enjoying the The promised land for for himself and his family and so forth. But just, as He had invited Habad for his expertise to be wise. So the Lord gives this command. That is An exercise of wisdom and diligence Independence upon the Lord.

But what is really being spied out to us in these two chapters? Isn't the land. Now, praise God. There are things about the land that. are encouraging. Particularly this cluster of grapes. That is so big. That the one cluster? Had to be carried on a pole between two men.

And the the name of the valley from then on was the Valley of the cluster. that's how it would be. remembered And they confess that it flows with milk and honey. Which of course, is the language that God used to describe it. That's encouraging, not so much because you know, we love grapes and pomegranates and figs.

But because it is just as the Lord had said, his word is faithful, he is faithful. The other thing that they see while they do see and give the locations the various tribes Who dwells over here and who dwells over there? The yeah. Who's in the mountains and the Canadianites, and the various lowlands.

By the sea or the Jordan Valley, Etc. But they also saw. Anakin. Just three. Whom they name by name. Ahiman And talmi. And so they come back. And they start giving the reports. And praise God, there are cities with fortifications. Because God had promised them that they would have cities.

Whose walls, they would not have to build. And one of these cities Hebron, Was seven years older. Did I get that right? Where our head running? So in I've lost the verse my eyes won't land on it. It's verse 22. Hebron was seven years older than one of the principal cities of Egypt, Zoan.

So these aren't run-of-the-mill cities, God is giving them the premisses. And yet, somehow, When they come back. And they report. The people are strong, their cities are fortified and very large. And we saw descendants of anarch. Remember he told us three three descendants of anarch. Apparently, The people respond to this, not with it's all exactly as Yahweh said, Which, Is actually the point in the text that it's all exactly as Yahweh said, Apparently, there's an outcry because when Caleb Responds to The Scouting report in verse 30.

It says he has to quiet the people first. And say let us go up at once and take possession. For we are well able to overcome it. Now, that's leadership. Leadership says, If y'all lay the lights in us, which is how their Caleb and Joshua are gonna respond again in chapter 14.

If y'all like the lights in us, you will give it to us. Don't you remember? He not only said that the land would be like this. He also had numbered the days. Way back in Genesis 12. When he was telling Abraham or Abram at that point that he was Give him the land.

He said the days of the amorites are number the 430 years because their sin is not yet complete. These people are not protected by how tall they are or what size spear, they can lift, or how old their city is or how thick the walls are. They were protected by the Providence of Yahweh.

Who had decided to spare them until a particular point in the progression of their wickedness. And now that that point has run out, They have zero protection. They will be as our food. Caleb sis. Caleb and Joshua say The problem is, in addition to these two liters, There are 10 air, quote leaders.

The sorts of people who, Take straw poles about everything. Who who do polling and figure out what the opinions are and decide to give the people, whatever the people want. That's not leadership. That's just the concentration of the general foolishness in a couple men of authority. Who have the same foolishness and who just do whatever the foolish people want.

And so, notice how they change from just the facts before the people had the Needed to be quieted by Caleb to the evil report. We are not able to go up against these people. For they are stronger than we Well, if you didn't talk about the Lord at all, did they?

It's as if the Lord doesn't even exist. Numbers. 13, 31 is an atheistic statement. But the problem for us is, We all too often think atheistically about our own lives. I can't do this, because And you weigh the whatever's in the situation against whatever is in you About whom have you forgotten to consider?

What have you forgotten to consider? Shall we not receive what is in the situation as from the Lord? And shall we not receive what we lack? As being in God's Providence,

but shall we not remember that God has given himself? For us in Christ at the cross and to us in Christ by his Spirit.

And so we have the Lord Our God. And if our hearts were to be, spied out. And then the Lord grants. Our hearts. See the good grapes as it were. Which doesn't mean you're always going to have good grapes and great wine. It means. Everything will always be as the Lord had said.

He had promised them. Good grapes in that land. At this time. He had promised them, the, the blessings. And he had promised them, the cities with the walls. And so forth, which of course, necessitated as strong people. But everything was as the Lord had said, everything in your life will be as he has said.

And that includes you will have trouble. It includes.

Just to open the door. She might be upset. Then the door is closed.

Yes, pause the Watcher, please. Thank you.

Everything in your life will be as he has said. So, you will have trouble. In this world. And, Everyone who desires to live a Godly life in Christ. Jesus must suffer persecution. Even within the church, this is not going to be A 100 United agreement and effort bless God.

Especially in faithful churches. And as he has done work and many of your brothers and sisters lives, there are many with whom you're, but there are others who are going to be against whatever is Godly. Everyone who desires to live a Godly life in Christ. Jesus must suffer persecution.

Remember what the, how the apostles strengthened the churches at the end of the first missionary journey, telling them through many tribulations. We must enter the kingdom of God. We must enter the kingdom of God. But there will be many tribulations, and when it happens rather than be discouraged and dismayed, shall we not say, This is just as Yahweh has said.

And, And the Lord is our help and our strength. It is also true. He who began the good work in you. We'll bring it to completion in the day of Christ, Jesus. And he, who calls and commands you to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling will work in you.

To will and to work according to his own good pleasure. And the Lord Jesus offers together with you and nothing separates you from the love of Christ and you can never come back under condemnation. Once you have been brought into Christ through faith and you are justified, there is already now.

No condemnation in Jesus. Intercedes for you. On Heaven, in heaven and the spirit helps you pray and intercedes along with you on the earth. And in all these things we are more than conquerors and already. We have not just Liberty to eat and drink foods from that were proscribed under the priesthood of Aaron and Levi, but far more than that, the kingdom as we already have, it is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

And so we are well able to do this. To use the words of Caleb. Because things are, Just as Java had said, Well, these cowards Should have been more afraid. The. The people and we assume, That this is especially rallied by the 10 quote, unquote leaders.

Let's do that again.

They don't just. Lift up these complaints wishing that they had died in Egypt or wishing that. They had died in the wilderness. But they actually make a plan to execute. At least Moses and Aaron and possibly. Caleb and Joshua. Moses and Aaron fall on their faces here. Not before the Lord.

Let me close the door now.

But before the people, The implication is when they say, let's get a new leader. That they're going to eliminate the old leaders. And so Moses and Aaron here are begging for their life. And Joshua and Caleb. They take up the cause and they make the points about the atheism of the people's response.

Both atheism with response, with respect to the the status of the Canaanites and atheism with response to the status of the Israelites. And the people's response to Caleb and Joshua. Defending following the Lord and defending, Moses and Aaron. Is to take up stones to Stone, Caleb and Joshua.

Which sometimes what's going to happen to you? If you defend. Good Doctrine and righteous action. If you defend people who are unjustly and unfairly attacked, yes you will. Sometimes make yourself the new shared Target of whatever the attack is. But we must not be atheistic. We must trust ourselves to the Lord.

Remember in Revelation 12 the way that they Overcome. By the blood of the lamb and the word of his power. And Loving, not their lives, even to the death. And the more than conquerors in Romans 8 are considered as sheep for the slaughter. They are killed for his sake all day long.

Doesn't mean that every Christian is going to be martyred or executed. But it does mean that it is. Safer to die. Trusting in Christ and being faithful to him and doing righteously. Than it is. To live going along with the crowd because you were afraid that they might attack you two.

And so, The people are cowards. Who should have been more afraid? They were afraid of the Canaanites, but they weren't afraid to attack. You always servants. Moses, the great prophet and Aaron the great high priest. And so the Lord displays his glory. He suddenly reminds them. Of that which they've been not denying.

And that, which they've been forgetting. And he declares to Moses. invitation. And intention. to destroy the entire nation and start over. just with Moses. But Moses intercedes, he intercedes, he is in God's own words. Indeed he intercedes using God's words that he spoke on the mountain when he was showing him his glory.

About being. the Lord who

Long-Suffering and abundant in Mercy for giving iniquity and transgression by no means clearing the guilty visiting the iniquity of the fathers and the children to the third and fourth generation. So he says you did this all for your glory. You brought them out of Egypt by your power. And, If you destroy them now, it will give occasion.

The Nations to blaspheme. But now show your power by forgiving them. You see what he's saying? He's saying when you showed me your glory on the mountain, You announced the greatness of your power. By being able to forgive without being unjust. And this is the greatness of his power throughout all history.

This is what he has done in the Incarnation and the cross. Displaying his ability to forgive, Without being unjust to be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Christ Jesus. This is the great display of the power of our God. And so Moses, says, Show Your Glory.

Show your power. Do it by forgiving. This is what you have been. This is what you have done all along. Look at how he describes the journeys of Israel. chapter 14 verse 19.

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, So he describes the entire history of Israel through.

Yeah. For the last. Year and a half or so, just continuously forgiving the sin of this people. and the Lord answers that he has pardoned them. And he gives them according to their word. Remember when they said, Oh, we wish it was like when we were back in Egypt and had cucumbers and melons and so forth.

He said, I can give you like, it was back in Egypt. I'll give you a plague. Well, this time they said, oh, if only we had died in the wilderness, It says grant it you will die in the wilderness. but their wives and their children whom they said would be victims.

The wives perhaps even. Many of them survive. They were not numbered. God says the ones who are numbered the ones who were in the census, 20 years old and above that, they would they would fall in the wilderness. But the children who are going to be victims, They were going to inherit the land.

The only thing they would be victims of is having to be Shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years. That they would continue the occupation that belonged to the time of the sojourning. Of the nation of Israel. They would not yet, get to have the gardens and the Orchards and the Groves and all of the other things that they were going to get to have in the land.

So, The Lord is both forgiving. And, He is just as he says he is. He is exactly. he says he is and then he does as he says The there's a plague particularly on. the 10 who brought the evil report. And he gives them instruction to go back to the Red Sea.

But now, the people who are afraid, To go fight the Canaanites and the malachites when Yahwe was with him, was with them. After the Lord says, go back to the Red Sea. They decide that they're gonna fight. The Canaanites and the amalekites without him. Even after his Prophet warns them, That the Lord is not with them.

And so, They go up. The cloud doesn't move and because the cloud doesn't move the arc doesn't move and Moses doesn't go with them. And they're routed and they're slaughtered. God does. God is. Who he says he is. He is full of patience and longsuffering and mercy. He forgives, Sinners through faith in Jesus Christ.

And he is also as he says, yes he is just and holy and righteous and without repentance and Faith or is-ness ovation without Christ, there is no salvation. And he does as he says he will do. He brings. Those who He saves in Christ into the blessing that he has promised them.

And he surely brings upon those. Who are without atonement? The condemnation, the Judgment, the punishment. That he threatens them. His word is sure. In everything that it says, And so let, Repent from our sin. But let us trust him. And let us be sure of his word about our lives.

Not just for the rest of this life, although certainly for that, But also, For the next life, let's pray. Our gracious Gardener heavenly father, We pray. When your Providence in our life spies out to us. That we are thinking and acting atheistically. That your spirit would give us repentance.

That he would convict us from your word. That we would know your forgiveness. And that all of our thinking and all of our experience, Would agree that you are faithful. That you are exactly. As you have said, in your word. And you do as exactly. As you have said, you will do.

So help us Lord to know this and confess this and believe it and live by it. Before we ask it in Jesus name, amen.