

"YOU SHALL BE MY PEOPLE"

Israel Leaves Sinai and the People Rebel

Lesson 8

December 6

"Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle... Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set _____" (Exo 40:34-36). Having spent almost a full year at Mount Sinai (Exo 19:1), **Numbers 10** tells us about the children of Israel setting out towards the Promised Land. But in **Numbers 11**, three days into their journey, problems begin:

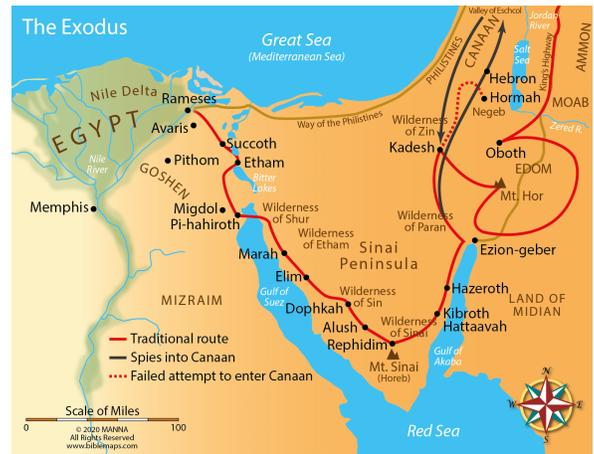
- **Num 11:1-3**: the people _____ in the hearing of the LORD about their misfortunes
 - **Num 11:4-35**: the "rabble" that was among them have a strong _____, the people complain about the manna and long for the food in Egypt
 - **Num 12**: the _____ of Moses is challenged by his brother Aaron and sister Miriam
- Each protest leads to serious consequences from the LORD. In **Numbers 13**, we reach a big turning point. The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Send men to _____ out the land of Canaan, which _____ to the people of Israel" ... Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan and said to them, "Go up into the Negeb and go up into the hill country, and see what the land is, and whether the people who dwell in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many, and whether the land that they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities that they dwell in are camps or strongholds, and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether there are trees in it or not. Be of good _____ and bring some of the fruit of the land." (13:1-2, 17-20)

Those twelve spies spend forty days spying out the land. Listen to what they say when they return:

"We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.

_____, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large ... The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them." (13:27-29, 32-33)

When Caleb, one of the spies, tried to quiet the people and encourage them—"Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are _____ to overcome it" (13:30), the majority of the spies said, "We are _____ able to go up against the people, for they are _____ than we are" (13:31). And the congregation of Israel? They listened to the bad report (14:1-4). Once again, the consequences would be devastating (14:28-35). What can we learn from this sad chapter in Israel's history? Let's talk about it...



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Let's look back at **Numbers 11:1-3**—the first time the Israelites got themselves into trouble after leaving Mount Sinai. What stands out to you? If things like this have been recorded “for our instruction” (**Rom 15:4**), what lessons are there to learn?
- And what about **Numbers 11:4-35**—the second time the Israelites got themselves into trouble? It seems to be tied to the “strong cravings” of the people. What do we need to see and understand?
- **Numbers 12** is that third time a protest comes up on the way to the Promised Land—this time with Aaron and Miriam. Why do you think this sort of thing kept happening? Are there lessons we can take away from this for today?
- **Numbers 13** is our big turning point where spies are sent into the land. How did things get off-track so quickly?
- Surrounded by so many doubters, why do you think Caleb was so optimistic in **13:30**? And he wasn't the only one, right? Who else stood up to offer the report Israel needed to hear in **14:6**? Let's listen very carefully to what he said in **14:6-9**. Why were these two so determined and full of faith?
- Why was it a very big deal for the LORD to have said, “I am giving” the land of Canaan “to the people of Israel” (**13:2**) and for the majority of the spies to report, “We are not able” (**13:31**)?
- Let's zero in on how the people responded in **14:1-4** and **14:10**. What did they try to do when they heard about the consequences of their rebellion in **14:39-40**? Did it work?
- What should we take away from this sad chapter in Israel's history?