



1

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 14:1-12,20-24,31-38

Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. ² And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the people of Israel.

2

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 14:1-12,20-24,31-38

⁶ And Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes ⁷ and said to all the congregation of the people of Israel, "The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. ⁸ If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. ⁹ Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them." ¹⁰ Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones. But the glory of the LORD appeared at the tent of meeting to all the people of Israel.

3

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 14:1-12,20-24,31-38

¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses, "How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? ¹² I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

²⁰ Then the LORD said, "I have pardoned, according to your word.

²¹ But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers.

4

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 14:1-12,20-24,31-38

And none of those who despised me shall see it. ²⁴ But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.

³¹ But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected.

³² But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness.

³³ And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness.

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IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 14:1-12,20-24,31-38

³⁴ According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.' ³⁵ I, the LORD, have spoken. Surely this will I do to all this wicked congregation who are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall come to a full end, and there they shall die."

6

IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 14:1-12,20-24,31-38

³⁶ And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing up a bad report about the land—³⁷ the men who brought up a bad report of the land—died by plague before the LORD. ³⁸ Of those men who went to spy out the land, only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive.

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IN THE WILDERNESS

**Don't Fear the Future,
Fear the Lord!**

8

IN THE WILDERNESS

Israel Was Severely Punished for Rebelling In Fear

- After hearing the bad report, the people rebelled against God – demanding to go back to Egypt
- They mistrusted God's motives and power
- God punished the people for their fearful rebellion
- God punished the spies for stirring up fear

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IN THE WILDERNESS

Don't Let Fear Keep You from Obeying God's Commands Going Forward

- God still doesn't want His people paralyzed by fear
- Jesus affirmed God's displeasure when fear is our excuse for disobedience
 - Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25
 - Fear the Lord! – Matthew 10:28
- Our mandate is to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations"

10

IN THE WILDERNESS

Trust That God Will Empower You to Do His Work Faithfully, No Matter What!

- Caleb and Joshua are right (verses 8-9)!
- The Father is sovereign, the Son is with us, the Spirit empowers us for outreach, evangelism, and missions
- God's Spirit empowers us even when faced with giants, powers, and authorities (Matthew 10:17-20)

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