

Crisis at Kadesh *Numbers 13-14; Heb. 3:7-19*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Apr. 14th

Review: History repeats itself! This is true (in part) because there are ancient forces involved with an agenda! Satan and his hosts are committed to defying God's will and so seek to thwart His plan at every turn. 1 Cor. 10:10,11 remind us that God wants to use the lessons of the past (ancient as well as recent) in order to prepare us for our future. (Jer. 29:11) The Exodus and Wilderness experiences of Israel were *"written for our admonition"* (1 Cor 10:11) God wanted His people to experience the blessings of His provision and protection in the promised land as an example to the world of faith. Satan wanted to frustrate this plan at all costs. After some 15 months of desert training and "faith quizzes" Israel arrives at the border of the promised land to face the final exam.

Tragically, they failed and suffered a humiliating defeat.

Our passage reveals some of the reasons for their defeat included:

1. Doubling God's Word. Nu. 13:1-25

A. Satan is the master of doubt! 2 Cor. 11:3,14-15 *"Yea hath God said...?"* Gen. 3:1

1) He cultivates it through our worldly wisdom. Compare 13:1 to Dt 1:20-22 *"And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, 'We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come.'"*

a) God's will was clear. God said go!...they said "whoa!"

b) Worldly Wisdom prevailed. Deut. 1:22

c) Once again *"God gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul"* Ps. 106:15

Obedience is doing what God says, when God says it, with the right attitude!

B. They chose a new group of leaders. Nu. 13:4-16

1) These were different than the original leaders God had named. (Nu. 1,2,7, 10) *"Everything rises and falls on leadership!"*

2) They spent 40 days traversing about 500 miles and learned nothing new that God hadn't already revealed. (Ex. 3:8, 17; 13:15; 23:27-31; Lev. 20:24; Numbers 10:33-36)

Numbers 13:27-28 *"And they told him, and said, 'We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.'"*

Their doubt led to ...

2. Discouraging God's People. Vs 26-33; Deut. 1:26-28

"28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there."

A. Discouragement feeds our doubts. Numbers 13:31-32 *"We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. And they brought up an evil report (dibbâ' Slandered) of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel..."*

A faith that can't be tested can't be trusted. Ro. 10:17

1) Discouragement spreads quickly. 14:1 *"all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; "*

2) Discouragement leads to discontentment. *"2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, 'Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!'"*

3) Then they question God's motives. 3 *"wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey?"*

The will of God will never lead us where the grace of God can't provide for us or the power of God protect us.

B. Doubt easily morphs into disbelief. Ro. 14:23 *"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin!"*

- 1) A complaining spirit is evidence of an ungrateful heart and an un-surrendered will.
- 2) By our grumbling, we're implying that we know more than God does about what's best!
Ph 2:13,14 *"it is God that worketh in you... Do all things without murmurings and disputings"*

C. Disbelief leads to Disobedience. 3 *"were it not better for us to return into Egypt?"*

This leads us to:

3. Defying God's Will. (Nu. 14:1-10) This was Satan's goal!

A. Disbelief defies God!

9 God said Go, and now they said "NO!" 4 *And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt."* Vs. 9 *"only rebel not ye against the Lord..."*

1 Sam. 15:23 *"rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft"*

B. Rebellion doesn't respond well to reason. (see 2 Tim. 2:25)

- 1) Moses, Aaron, Caleb, and Joshua all tried to remind and reason with them. 14:5-9 Those caught in Satan's snares usually "oppose themselves" (2 Tim. 2:25) and ultimately oppose God. Vs 10 *"But all the congregation bade stone them with stones."*
- 2) Those who rebel against God's will are denying His wisdom, questioning His love, and provoking His Judgment.

4. Deserving God's Judgment. 14:10-38 *"all the congregation bade stone them..."*

And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel."

God's judgment of His people seemed to follow a pattern. (Ex. 32; Deut. 6)

A. Intercession. Vs 11-18 Moses prayed for God's mercy referencing His promises.

19 *"Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."*

B. Forgiveness. 20 *"I have pardoned according to thy word."*

C. Discipline. Vs 21-38 22 *Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; 23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers"*

- 1) Once again God gives them what they asked for. Vs. 2! 28 *"as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you... from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me"*

The adults would turn back and wander in the wilderness.

5. Disobeying God's Command. Nu. 14:39-35; Deut. 1:41-46

A. Incomplete Repentance 40 *"We'll go up unto the place the Lord promised... we have sinned..."*

- 1) Admitting and confessing isn't the same as repenting and submitting!

B. Ignoring God's directions. 42 *"Go not up for the LORD is not among you."*

C. Experiencing the natural consequences of disobedience. 44-45

Conclusion: There's no substitute for faithful obedience. (Trust & Obey Pr 3:5,6)

This pattern was repeated during the passion week! (Luke 22:31-34; Mt. 26)

Application: "Real faith is man's weakness leaning on God's strength."

There's no substitute for faithful obedience. Trust & Obey! (Pr. 3:5,6)

Ph. 2:13,14 *"It is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings... That ye may be... the sons of God..."*