

# Numbers 13,14,16

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## Day 1

### Spies sent to Canaan. Read Numbers 13

1. Who was sent out to explore the land? 13:1,2

- What route had they taken to get to Canaan? Deuteronomy 1:19,20
- Whose idea was it to search the land? Deuteronomy 1:22,23

2. What did Moses call Hoshea? 13:16

**FYI:** "Changing Hoshea's name to Joshua probably indicated great esteem on Moses' part. As God often changed the names of people who had a special relationship with Him, so Moses changed the name of the one who would eventually become his spiritual heir...Hoshea means 'Salvation'; Joshua means 'the Lord Saves.' Joshua and Jesus are two forms of the same name."  
- The Nelson Study Bible (252)

3. What kinds of things did Moses want the men to find out? 13:17-20 (What did Moses already know? Exodus 3:8.)

4. What did they report about the land? 13:27 (See also Deut. 8:7-10; 11:11,12)

- The people? 13:28,29



**FYI:** "The phrase *flows with milk and honey* is a slogan of redemption, a slogan expressing God's goodness in His promise of the land of Canaan." - Nelson's (252)

ANAKIM (giants)-a race of fierce giants (Deut 1:28; 2:10-11; Josh 14:12,15) descended from ANAK. So gigantic were they that the spies sent out by Moses considered themselves as mere grasshoppers compared to the Anakim (Num 13:33). Under Joshua, however, the Israelites destroyed many of the Anakim. - Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

5. How did Caleb (and Joshua 14:6) feel about taking the land? 13:30

- How did the other men feel? 13:31-33

6. What had the people forgotten? Exodus 23:23,27,31
7. Write out the promise that God had gave them later. Deut 31:6
8. From the following verses, what are some good things to remember when facing difficult circumstances?
- Nahum 1:7 The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, NIV
  - John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." NIV
  - Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. NIV
  - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. NIV
  - Hebrews 13:5,6 He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?" NASU

***Applying the Word:** What difficult circumstance are you facing in your life? Which, if any, of the above verses give you a helpful perspective?*

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## Day 2

The People Rebel; Moses Pleads with God. Read Numbers 14

9. How did the men's report affect the community? 14:1
- What else do you learn about their fears in Deuteronomy 2:26-28
10. Whom did the people blame in 14:2? (Cross-reference. Exodus 16:2,3; 17:3)

**COMPLAINED**

11. Whom did the people blame in 14:3? (What were they accusing God of being? What does this say about the depth of their unbelief and rebellion?)

12. What did they think a good solution would be? 14:3b,4 (Who did they consult?)

**FYI:** "This was pure rebellion. They said that they did not want Gods plan, they did not want Gods leaders, and they did not want Gods land. They believed that they knew better than God." - David Guzik

13. How did Moses and Aaron respond? 14:5

- How did Joshua and Caleb respond? 14:6,7

**Digging Deeper**  
See Moses' recounting of this event in Deut. 1:26-31.

14. On what did Caleb and Joshua base the success of taking the land? 14:8

- What two things did they say not to do? Why? 14:9a
- How confident were they? 14:9b

**Digging Deeper**  
In the following, what other people were threatened with stoning?  
John 8:59, 10:31

Acts 7: 54-58

15. How did the people respond? 14:10

- How dramatically did the Lord respond? 14:10

Acts 14:19

**FYI:** "In the midst of the peoples' rage, which was building into a storm that might lead to the stoning of the righteous, the holy God in an awesome display of his wonder burst into their midst at the entrance of the tabernacle.... The sudden theophany of the Lord at this moment must have been staggering in its abrupt and intense display of his wonder and wrath." - The Expositor's Bible Commentary

16. What did God say the people were doing? 14:11 (See Jeremiah 7:23-26)

**IT'S HEBREW TO ME:** "*spurn/treat me with contempt/despise/provoke*" Strong's OT:5006 "A verb meaning to revile, to scorn, to reject...This word often refers to rejecting the counsel of a wise person."  
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament (696)

"Israel stood barely a year out of Egypt, on the threshold of the Promised Land...they had been fully prepared to walk as Promised Land people... set apart and blessed... given Gods presence as a guide... Unbelief made them think of Gods good for them (the gift of the Promised Land) as something evil." - David Guzik

**Applying the Word:** *What fears do you struggle with that keep you from trusting in the Lord's ability or even His willingness to deal with them? Make a list and then tell the Lord about each one, asking for an understanding of His presence, power, protection and provisions in handling them in you, for you and through you. Keep a record over time of how this prayer was answered!*

## Day 3

Moses Intercedes for the People. Read Numbers 14:12-45

17. What did the Lord propose to do and what did He offer Moses? 14:12b (Cf. Exodus 32:10)

- Why did Moses object? 14:13-16

18. On what basis did Moses make his appeal? 14:17,18

- What did he request? 14:19 (What does this say about Moses' heart and his understanding of God?)

**FYI:** Moses knew God's power, and appealed to it; Moses knew God's promise and appealed to it, and Moses knew God's glory and appealed to it. This was a spectacular example of intercession." - David Guzik

"How vitally important is the presence of even a tiny godly minority in an ungodly community. This model intercessory prayer continually appeals both to God's righteous character and His lovingkindness, as the basis for making the request."  
- Henry Morris (comment on Gen. 18:23)

19. Amazingly, how did the Lord respond to Moses' pleas? 14:20-23

**FYI:** "According to your word: This means that Moses' prayer *mattered*...We don't understand the relationship between the eternal, sovereign plan of God and our prayers; but we know it is no game." - David Guzik

20. What words did the Lord use to describe Caleb? 14:24 What reward did he receive?

21. Who would and who would not inherit the land? 14:29-31 (Ironically, contrast 14:3.)

22. List the words that the Lord used to describe the people or their actions and attitudes.

- 14:22b *“Put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice”*
- 14:23b *“spurned Me”*
- 14:27,29
- 14:31b
- 14:33
- 14:35

23. How was the people’s sentence determined? 14:33,34 (Note: In spite of that judgment, what did they say about it at the end? Deuteronomy 2:7)

**FYI:** “It is unlikely that the Israelites were on the move for this entire period. They may at time have spent several years in one place, but they had no permanent homes.”  
- Africa Bible Commentary (214)

24. What happened to the men who brought a bad report? 14:36,37 (Even though this seems harsh, how would this help protect the people/the nation?)

- What happened to Joshua and Caleb? 14:38

### **The People Disobey**

25. How did the people respond to the Lord’s judgment? 14:39, 40 (Note: What *did* they acknowledge and what *didn’t* they acknowledge. How did they try to make bring the Lord into their decision/make it sound right?)

26. List the phrases that describe their actions:

- 14:41 *“disobeying the LORDS’s command”*
- 14:43
- 14:44

27. Why were they defeated? 14:42b, 43b, 44b (See Deuteronomy 2:42-44)

**FYI:** "They wanted to make it all better with a few religious works and words but their hearts were not changed. All this was on their initiative, as a way of doing Gods will *their way*, and hoping to reap the same blessings...They made a futile attempt in the flesh to accomplish what they had rejected by faith, and it ended in defeat." - David Guzik

"The name *Hormah* means 'Utter Destruction.'"

- The Nelson Study Bible (255)

"To undertake a journey of faith without God's help and guidance is futile."

- Africa Bible Commentary (187)

**Applying the Word:** *What does Moses' example teach you about caring for and dealing with people who have a stubborn, rebellious attitude toward the Lord?*

## Day 4

### Korah's Rebellion. Read Numbers 16:1-50

28. Who brought complaints against Moses? 16:1,2 How intimidating a group would this have been?

- What honor did the Kohathites have? Numbers 3:30,31; 8:11

GATHERED  
AGAINST

**FYI:** "**Korah** was the son of Izhar and a first cousin of Moses and Aaron (Ex 6:18,20,21). He was equal in rank with Aaron within the tribe of Levi.... The **Reubenites** were the descendants of Jacob's eldest son. They thought the responsibility for leading Israel should rest with their tribe rather than the Levites."

- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

"Both Moses and Korah were descended from Kohath, but by different sons (Moses through Amram [[Numbers 26:58-59](#)], and Korah through Izhar)."

- David Guzik

29. Of what did they accuse Moses and Aaron? 16:3 (Cf. Numbers 12:2,6,7.)

- Whom did the men presume to represent?
- How did they make their complaint sound spiritual?

30. How did Moses respond to their rebellion? 16:4 How destructive could this rebellion have been coming from the priestly tribe?

- What was Moses' defense? 16:5 What kind of man did Moses say God would choose?

31. How would their authority be tested? Who was going to determine their guilt or innocence? 16:7 (Note: How did Moses label their actions?)

**FYI:** A **censer** is a metal pot used to burn incense, and they were used in the priestly worship of God. Since Korah and his companions questioned Moses and Aarons right to lead the nation and conduct the priesthood, each group would come to the LORD as worshipping priests - and God would show which group He accepted." - David Guzik

32. What was the real issue? 16:9,10 (See Psalms 106:16)

- Who were they really fighting? 16:11

33. What accusations and slander did Dathan and Abiram bring against Moses? 16:12-14 (How would you describe their attitude?)

- What did Moses say about any abuse of power on his part? 16:15

"WE WILL NOT  
COME UP."

34. Who was included in the group that appeared before the Lord? 16:16-18

- How did the Lord respond? 16:20,21 (*Why do you think He was holding the whole congregation accountable? What does this indicate about the rebellion?*)

35. How did Moses and Aaron plead for the people in 16:22?

- How did the Lord respond? 16:23,24 (*Why do you think the Lord kept putting Moses and Aaron in these positions of intervening and praying?*)
- How did the congregation respond? 16:25-27 ("Elders": see Numbers 11:16)

36. What did the fate of Korah, Dathan and Abiram testify to? 16:28-30

- Who else was judged? 16:35

37. What happened to Korah's children? Numbers 26:11

38. How was this rebellious spirit memorialized for future generations? 16:37-40

- Who alone was designated to handle the censers and fire and incense? 16:40

### **The People Complain**

39. Amazingly, what did the sons of Israel grumble about the next day? 16:41

- What did the Lord ask Moses and Aaron to do? How did the people respond? 16:44

40. How did Moses and Aaron rescue the people this time? 16:46-48 (Why do you think the Lord devoted a whole chapter (50 verses!) in scripture to these events?)

GRUMBLED

**FYI:** "The picture of this aged priest running to save the people who had spoken against him is quite remarkable. The words of v. 48 are quite dramatic. Aaron stood between the living and the dead to stop the plague - a symbol of the Savior, who takes a similar stand in the gap between life and death." - The Nelson Study Bible (259)

"Here is a picture of... Jesus, and his work on our behalf. We were guilty sinners deserving judgment... our Savior was sent on His mission, He was unjustly accused and attacked, He prayed on our behalf, He ran to save us, He stood between death and life for us, and He is the only chance for salvation, being the dividing line between death and life. If Aaron the high priest, with his censer and incense, could disarm the wrath... so that a guilty people, who deserved nothing but destruction, should be spared; how much more effectual may we expect the great atonement to be which was made by the Lord Jesus Christ, of whom Aaron was only the *type!*" - David Guzik

**Applying the Word:** *The nation of Israel was given tremendous promises and privileges, but along with that came a tremendous responsibility. What do you think would have happened to the nation, and their witness to the world, if God had not acted against these rebellions by the leaders and people?*