

Numbers 14:1-45 YeHoVaH's Mercy is Tested

In the Teaching last week, **Israel's Faith is Tested**, Moses was given Instructions, by YeHoVaH for Israel, to send particular individuals to search the land of Canaan. The response of many of the people demonstrated where they were in their faith. The outcome of their response tested the mercy and patience of YeHoVaH.

In this study, we will see the **proper and the improper way that Believers should respond to YeHoVaH's Instructions.**

Nu 14:1 And **all the congregation** lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

All the congregation: both men and women.

Why? Because of the report of the ten.

Nu 14:2 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!

The people murmured against Moses and Aaron, YeHoVaH's chosen leaders.

1. First, they said they should have died in Egypt. It was too late for them to die in Egypt because they were no longer in Egypt.
2. Next, they said they should die in the wilderness. YeHoVaH gave them what they asked for.
3. Then, they flat-out directly blamed YeHoVaH for their current predicament.

Nu 14:3 And wherefore hath YeHoVaH brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a **prey**? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

They accused YeHoVaH of setting them up to be prey.

Prey – **0957** rā baz {baz}

Meaning: 1) spoil, booty, robbery, spoiling

Usage: AV - prey 18, spoil 4, spoiled 2, booty 1; 25

Nu 14:4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

The people sought to establish self-rule where they could vote, select a captain, and tell the captain where to lead them. In this case, lead them back to Egypt.

Nu 14:5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

Nu 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were* of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

Nu 14:7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

Nu 14:8 If YeHoVaH delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Nu 14:9 Only rebel not ye against YeHoVaH, **neither** fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and YeHoVaH *is* with us: fear them not.

The people rose up with the intent to stone Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh. YeHoVaH shows up at that moment.

Nu 14:10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of YeHoVaH appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

Who did the people **not listen** to?

- They did not listen to Moses, the leader chosen by YeHoVaH.
- They did not listen to the High Priest, chosen by YeHoVaH.
- They did not listen to Caleb.
- They did not listen Joshua.
- The people did not listen to the chosen leader.

Joshua and Caleb tried to encourage the people not to rebel, and instead to trust YeHoVaH. The people turned on the ones trying to get them to trust YeHoVaH and believe they could do what He said.

Who did they **listen** to?

- They listened to the ten spies who said they couldn't do what YeHoVaH said they could do.
- The ten built a case against YeHoVaH and the people followed those ten individuals to their own peril.
- The people listened to and followed the evil reporters.
- People today are telling other people they cannot keep YeHoVaH's Laws and Commandments.
- God's people are following them to their own peril.
- The ten provoked the people and the people rose up with the intent to murder.

Nu 14:11 And YeHoVaH said unto Moses, How long will this people **provoke** me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shown among them?

Provoke – **05006** יָנִיחַ {naw-ats'}

Meaning: 1) to spurn, contemn, despise, abhor 1a) (Qal) to spurn, contemn 1b) (Piel) 1b1) to spurn 1b2) to cause to contemn 1c) (Hiphil) to spurn 1d) (Hithpolel) to be contemned

Usage: AV - despise 8, provoke 5, abhor 4, blaspheme 4, contemn 2, flourish 1, great occasion to blaspheme 1; 25

Nu 14:12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Pestilence – **01698** דִּבְרָה {deh'-ber}

Meaning: 1) pestilence, plague 2) murrain, cattle disease, cattle-plague

Usage: AV - pestilence 47, plagues 1, murrain 1; 49

Nu 14:13 And Moses said unto YeHoVaH, Then the Egyptians shall hear *it*, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

Nu 14:14 And they will tell *it* to the inhabitants of this land: *for* they have heard that thou LORD *art* among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and *that* thy cloud standeth over them, and *that* thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.

Nu 14:15 Now *if* thou shalt kill *all* this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,

Nu 14:16 Because YeHoVaH was not able to bring this people into the land which he sware unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.

Nu 14:17 And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my LORD be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,

Nu 14:18 YeHoVaH *is* longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and **by no means clearing *the guilty***, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation*.

Moses uses YeHoVaH's Words to make a point for mercy and forgiveness. Moses is saying, if you are going to "out" someone, just punish the guilty. Don't punish everyone, only those responsible.

Nu 14:19 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.

YeHoVaH's response was as Moses requested. The guilty will be punished. YeHoVaH did not kill all the people, but made them wander, "This way I will teach their children not to be like their fathers."

YeHoVaH pardons the people and does not destroy or kill them at that moment. Instead, He refuses to give them the land or let them enter the land. He would rather they die than give them what He promised.

Nu 14:20 And YeHoVaH said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

Nu 14:21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of YeHoVaH.

The earth/land shall be filled with the glory of YeHoVaH.

Why? Because the Children of Israel will be in the Land in abundance as promised.

But those, who did what they did would not inherit the Land and their carcasses will fall in the wilderness. The world will never know they died because the land would be full of His glory.

Nu 14:22 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;

The people tempted YeHoVaH **ten times**, starting immediately after they left Egypt, and they refused to obey Him.

- 1) Exodus 14:10-12
- 2) Exodus 15:22-24
- 3) Exodus 16:1-3
- 4) Exodus 16:19-20
- 5) Exodus 16:27-30
- 6) Exodus 17:1-4
- 7) Exodus 32:1-35
- 8) Numbers 11:1-3
- 9) Numbers 11:4-34
- 10) Numbers 14:3

Notice, YeHoVaH said they did not hearken to **His Voice** ... Not Moses' voice, but **His Voice!**

Hearkened – **08085** שָׁמָע {shaw-mah'}

Meaning: v 1) to hear, listen to, obey 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to hear (perceive by ear) 1a2) to hear of or concerning 1a3) to hear (have power to hear) 1a4) to hear with attention or interest, listen to

Usage: AV - hear 785, hearken 196, obey 81, publish 17, understand 9, obedient 8, diligently 8, shew 6, sound 3, declare 3, discern 2, noise 2, perceive 2, tell 2, reported 2, misc 33; 1159

The people were hearers of the Word of YeHoVaH, but NOT Doers of His Word as James wrote.

Jas 1:21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

Jas 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Jas 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

Jas 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

Jas 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Nu 14:23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

Nu 14:24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Caleb seed? According to 1 Chronicles 4, Caleb had 3 sons. We don't know the ages of Caleb's seed, but if any of them were older than twenty, they would enter the land with Caleb.

Nu 14:25 (Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwelt in the valley.) Tomorrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

Nu 14:26 And YeHoVaH spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Nu 14:27 How long *shall I bear with this evil congregation*, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.

Nu 14:28 Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith YeHoVaH, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

Nu 14:29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,

This is both men and women.

The verse indicates those twenty years and older were the ones murmuring.

Nu 14:30 Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

Nu 14:31 But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.

Your little ones in this passage, refers to those 19 years and younger mentioned in Verse 3 as children.

Nu 14:3 And wherefore hath YeHoVaH brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

When numbering the children of Israel, only those 20 years and older were numbered.

Nu 14:32 But *as for* you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.

The children wandered in the wilderness because of the sins of their fathers.
But they saw the promised Land that YeHoVaH promised to give to their fathers.

Nu 14:33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.

Whoredoms – **02184** זְנוּנוֹת {zen-ooth'}

Meaning: 1) fornication, harlotry

Usage: AV - whoredom 9; 9

Nu 14:34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

Breach – **08569** תְּנוּאָה {ten-oo-aw'}

Meaning: 1) opposition, alienation, enmity

Usage: AV - occasion 1, breach of promise 1; 2

The only other place this Hebrew word for breach is used is in Job.

Job 33:10 Behold, he findeth occasions against me, he counteth me for his enemy,

Nu 14:35 I YeHoVaH have said, I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

Nu 14:36 And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land,

The ten men who brought an evil report died by the plague.

Nu 14:37 Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before YeHoVaH.

Nu 14:38 But Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were* of the men that went to search the land, lived *still*.

Nu 14:39 And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly.

YeHoVaH Swore in His Wrath

Heb 3:6 But Messiah as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Heb 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice,

Heb 3:8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Heb 3:9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

Heb 3:10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways.

Heb 3:11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

Heb 3:12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

After mourning, the people decided they would now do what YeHoVaH had said.

The people missed their opportunity and now wanted to press forward, after the fact.

Nu 14:40 And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we *be here*, and will go up unto the place which YeHoVaH hath promised: for we have sinned.

Nu 14:41 And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of YeHoVaH? but it shall not prosper.

Nu 14:42 Go not up, for YeHoVaH *is* not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.

Nu 14:43 For the Amalekites and the Canaanites *are* there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from YeHoVaH, therefore **YeHoVaH will not be with you.**

Nu 14:44 But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of YeHoVaH, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.

- First, they did not do what YeHoVaH said.
- Next, they decided to do it anyway even when they were told YeHoVaH would not be with them.
- Moses told them not to go, but they would not listen.
- There were no trumpet sounds made for war by the Priests.
- The cloud did not move.
- YeHoVaH did not go up with them.
- Moses did not go up with them.
- Moses let them do what they wanted to do after **warning** them.
- They died.

Whose side are you on?

Who will you serve?

Nu 14:45 Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, *even* unto Hormah.