

# Only Do Not Rebel Against the Lord

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Numbers 14

**Two Reports** - Joshua & Caleb viewed the promised land through the lens of faith in God's promises. The others (the majority) viewed the promised land through their humanness.

We often fall to the same plague of unbelief: **we believe God created the universe from nothing**, yet find it hard to believe that our medical conditions belong to him. **We believe God directs the paths of kings and nations**; yet it is hard to believe that He, who transformed our own dead heart, could transform the heart of our stubborn family member or neighbor. **We proclaim that God entered history in Bethlehem as the incarnate Son of God**; yet, we find it difficult to believe that God is active in our own personal history. **We believe and proclaim that he suffered on the cross for our sins and rose again triumphant from the grave to free us from our sins**. Yet, we find it hard to believe that this particular sin of ours could ever be forgiven or that the power of that sinful habit could ever be broken.

Examine the following passages considering **Numbers 13 & 14; Psalms 95:7-11; 1 Cor 10:5-11; Heb 3:7-19; Heb 4:1-13; Jude 5, John 6**

## **I. Grumbling, No Small Matter with God (Numbers 14)**

- A. Grumbled (**14:2**) – complaining remarks, noises, under one's breath. (grumble, murmur, slander). Grumbling in Scripture is far more than an innocent action or words that contain sarcasm. Murmuring is connected to rebellion; this action is reflective of our heart's attitude that no longer will accept the instruction of the Lord (Isa 29:24). It is cloaked in a victimized innocence
  - 1. **Deuteronomy 1:27**, *And you murmured in your tents and said, 'Because the Lord hated us he has brought us out of the land of Egypt, to give us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us.*
  - 2. **Proverbs 16:28**, *A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.*
  - 3. **Proverbs 26:20**, *For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases.*
- B. What was the grumbling about?
  - 1. Fear would choose certain death in Egypt over possible death in the promised land (**Numbers 14:2**)
  - 2. Fear presumes to know the future and the mind of the Lord (**Numbers 14:3**)
  - 3. Fear chooses bondage over freedom (**Numbers 14:4**)
- C. The reaction of Leadership (**Numbers 14:5-9**)
- D. The grumblers committed to rebellion in unbelief (**Numbers 14:10**)
- E. The wrath of God kindled against the grumblers (**Numbers 14:11-12**)
- F. The intercessor going to God on behalf of the grumblers (**Numbers 14:13-19**)
- G. God's glory in the judgment on the grumbling (**Numbers 14:20-38**)

## **II. What does all this mean for us today? (John 6)**

- A. Ask the question, Am I one who has a grumbling spirit? (**James 5:9**)
- B. Who is Jesus to you? (**John 6:1-15; esp. vss. 2, 14-15**) These came to Him for what He could provide (healing, food, deliverance from Rome). No one comes to faith on their own terms (**John 6:44; 65-69**).
  - 1. Q1: Rabbi, when did you come here? A1: (**6:26-27**)
  - 2. Q2: What must we do to be doing the works of God? A2: (**6:29**)
  - 3. Q3: Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? A3: (**6:32-33**)
- C. The answer is not what can satisfy us, but Who can satisfy us (**John 6:34-40**)
- D. The universal "grumble" of unbelief (**John 6:41-42**)
- E. The third "truly, truly" (**John 6:26, 32, 47**). The explanation (**John 6:48-51**)
- F. The hard saying causes clarity (**John 6:60-66**)
- G. The question to the true disciples (**John 6:67-69**)