

# Wilderness of Paran

Numbers 13:2-3; through 14

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**FOCAL** Numbers 13:2-3 (KJV) "Send thou men, that they may search<sup>1</sup> the land of Canaan, which I give<sup>2</sup> unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler<sup>3</sup> among them. {3} And Moses by the commandment of the **LORD** sent them from the wilderness of Paran:<sup>4</sup> all those men were heads of the children of Israel."

<sup>1</sup> Qal Imperfect tuwr {pronounced toor}, explore

<sup>2</sup> Qal Active Participle nathan {pronounced naw-than'}, bestowed on, given as a gift

<sup>3</sup> asn nasi' {pronounced naw-see'}, a prince, a ruler, tribal leader

<sup>4</sup> *Easton's Bible Dictionary* "a desert tract forming the north-eastern division of the peninsula of Sinai, lying between the 'Arabah on the east and the wilderness of Shur on the west. It is intersected in a north-western direction by the Wady el-'Arish. It bears the modern name of Badiet et-Tih, i.e., "the desert of the wanderings.""

A young man recently wrote me and asked:

**"If God is for want or need of nothing, why were we created? What is the purpose for our creation? What is it that we are to fulfill? I already know what a great deal of theologians have said in the past: Augustine, Clement of Rome, etc. However I have not heard a good response to that question in the modern era. Nor is it one that the Bible answers directly. If you could help me out I would be grateful!"**

When I read this I was initially surprised. God clearly explains why He created us in the Scriptures, and if you have read the Bible for any length of time you know the answer to this question. God is love, and love, as defined *Biblically*, must express itself *outwardly* in exponential ways. God had servants in Heaven - the angelic host -

but love wants more than a servant. God created us because it *pleased Him to do so*, and it pleased Him to do so because Love must have an object of affection.

I suppose we as humans have such a problem with God because we really don't understand the Pure Love of God. Years ago there was a movie I remember seeing called *Love Story*. One of the famous sayings from that movie is that "Love means never having to say *I'm Sorry*". Boy, that was a tearjerker! But boy, that's a bunch of hogwash! Love is *not* "Never having to say you're sorry" - that's some sentimental nonsense that liberalism and the New Age Movement cooked up. You can only define love when you look at God, for

**1 John 4:8** <sup>(KJV)</sup> "... God is love."

In the first century Church there were a group of people called *the Gnostics* who became so entrenched in worldly experiences that their theology became skewed. These people looked at the God of the Old Testament and declared that He was so *radically different* from the God of the New Testament that He must have been *another God*. So these *Gnostics* developed a theology that said the God of the Old Testament was actually a *wicked God*, a *Meanie*, a lesser *God* than the God Who is Love that is revealed in the New Testament. In fact, that old heresy of *Gnosticism* is coming back today. Some people are looking at the God of the Old Testament and what He commanded and they're saying, "But that was then, and this is now. God is changed! He's not the same anymore, so the old rules don't apply". But God says:

**introduction Malachi 3:6** <sup>(KJV)</sup> "For I am the LORD, I

**change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."**

In this statement is the *anchor of Christianity* and the *anchor of the believer*. God does not change! What God has decreed stands. If God is love, and love is His method of operation (MO) in the New Testament, then love is His MO in the Old Testament. But God is also **HOLY**, as the Scriptures says:

**introduction Psalms 99:5** <sup>(KJV)</sup> "Exalt ye the **LORD** our God, and worship at his footstool; for **he is holy.**"

The *love* of God is perfectly bound to the *holiness* of God - and one cannot be exhibited without the other being manifest. God is *love*, and that love is *holy*, separate, without sin, pure. Love seeks an *object to love*, but love also wants that object to understand that God must love within the parameters of *holiness*. God makes allowances for our limitations - the Bible says:

**introduction Psalms 103:10-14** <sup>(KJV)</sup> "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; **nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. {11} For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. {12} As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. {13} Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. {14} For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust."**

By faith in the work of Jesus Christ, God the Son, our  
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transgressions are removed from us. This occurs at the point when a person hears the Gospel of Christ - the Good News - and believes on Him. But this is not the

1. God is not only \_\_\_\_\_, but He is also \_\_\_\_\_. These two traits are *absolutes* in the *essence of God*. (1 John 4:8; Malachi 3:6; Psalm 99:5; Psalm 103:10-14)
2. The God of the Old Testament is the same as the \_\_\_\_\_. (Malachi 3:6)

end! Saved by Grace, we are also called to *live in that Grace, obediently following God*. God realizes our limitations. He *pities* or makes *allowances* under the Cross for our failures - but God *never endorses sinful behavior*. God has never given us *what we deserve*, but He has offered us Grace through Christ - and following salvation expects us to *obediently follow where He leads*.

This was just as true in the Old Testament as it was in the New. You can look at how God dealt with Israel and see how both the *love of God and the holiness of God* worked together with that people. The *love of God* expressed itself by seeking out Abraham, the father of us all (**Romans 4:16**), and the *love of God* brought many nations out of that old Chaldean (**Genesis 17:5; Romans 4:6**). But the *holiness of God* refused to bring the line of Christ through the *child of the bondwoman Hagar* (**Galatians 4:22-23**), but brought that child through Isaac, the child of promise. Holiness and love, bound together in the very *essence* of God, and both must be expressed in all that God does.

This *first generation of Israel* failed to understand that God's MO is *always both love and holiness*. Because

they failed to understand Who God is - though He showed them at the Red Sea, at Rephidim, at Meribah, at many places and many times as they came to this point in their journey - because they failed to understand *they would never possess the blessings that God's love wanted to give to them*. This first generation (minus Joshua and Caleb) looked at God with less respect than a three year old kid would give to the imaginary *Santa Claus*. Most children will start behaving in the first part of December, lest they lose out when Santa alleged comes on Christmas Eve.

### **First, The Word of God Was Added To**

What caused the first generation of Israel to *lose the promise, to fall dying for forty years* in the wilderness? It was this simple: they added to the Word of God! When you take the Word of God and add to it, you set yourself up for trouble.

What did God tell Moses to do? Read it with me:

**FOCAL** Numbers 13:2 (KJV) "**Send thou men, that they may search<sup>1</sup> the land of Canaan, which I give<sup>2</sup> unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler<sup>3</sup> among them.**

God said "I'm going to *give you* this land. Send *a leader from every tribe in Israel* to go into that land and *explore it*." That's all God said. Now I'm going to tell you this - I believe the Word of God - this Holy Bible - to be completely without error and true. I've studied this thing for nigh on to thirty years, and have *never found*

anything to cause me to disbelieve this Word. This is *exactly* what God told Moses to do. God's love was at work when He sent Israel into the Promised Land. God's holiness was at work when He planned on casting out the Canaanites - an evil, devilish, godless people - so that Israel could have this land. Canaanites out! Israel in! The love and holiness of God perfectly in tune!

You know what God was telling Israel? He was saying,

"I'm giving you this land. I want you to go in there and *see what I'm giving you*. Look how much I love you! I want each of you tribal leaders to go look at it, come back and tell My People *how much I love them*, then go get what I told you!"

Now, I want you to notice *how Moses took what God said, and added to it*. Look down in verses 17-20

<sup>context</sup>**Numbers 13:17-20 (KJV)** "And **Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan**, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain: {18} And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwelleth therein, **whether they be strong or weak, few or many**; {19} **And what the land is that they dwell in, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that they dwell in, whether in tents, or in strong holds**; {20} And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of the firstripe grapes."

Wait a minute, Moses, did God say that? Look what Moses, good man that he is, added to this. He said "Go look at the people, *whether they're strong or weak, few or many*." God never said that. God had already *drowned the entire might of Egypt* to get Israel to this point:

<sup>supporting</sup>**Exodus 14:27-28 (KJV)** "And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the **LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea**. {28} And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them."

God never told Moses to tell the people all of this. God said "send twelve tribal heads out to look at what I'm going to give them", but Moses added so much more into the command. Moses had them look at the *people*, their *cities*, the *walls or fortifications of the cities* - and ended up with

**And be ye of good courage**

Where did all this come from? Well, when we look at Moses *narrative of the exodus* in **Deuteronomy 1:21-23** we read:

<sup>context</sup>**Deuteronomy 1:21-23 (KJV)** "Behold, the **LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged**. {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. {23} And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe:"

As Paul Harvey says, "Here's the rest of the story". God said "Have twelve tribal leaders go look at what I'm going to give you". That was what God said. But people came to Moses and said, "Let's have the twelve men bring us back an *intelligence report*." Moses listened to that and, as the Scripture says,

### the saying pleased me well

so he modified what he was told, and sent the spies on a *reconnaissance mission*. What started out as God in Love showing those Whom He loved what He was going to give them has now become a *military mission*. The majority of these "spies", ten of them, would go out focused on *Israel's ability* instead of *God's promise*. And thus we begin a terrible slide from blessing to cursing.

How many times have we taken the Word of God, added to it, and brought destruction on ourselves? How many

3. What did GOD tell Israel to do? (Numbers 13:2)

4. What did MOSES tell Israel to do? (Numbers 13:17-20; Deuteronomy 1:21-23) Why did Moses do this?

times have we lifted up self above God's loving provision, only to find that self is no more than smoke and vapor.

Israel *never had the ability to save herself*. She didn't have the ability to save herself while enslaved in Egypt. She didn't have the ability to save herself while standing on the shores of the Red Sea, while the armies of Egypt pounded down on them ready to kill them. Israel didn't have the power to save herself while wandering in the desert. Israel didn't have the power to save herself when she crossed the Jordan. The power of salvation is in God! The same Love that brought Israel out of Egypt is the same Love that said, "Go see what I've promised you". Moses listened to others instead of God, and Moses added to God's Word. The spies went out following the *word of man* rather than the Word of God. *Listen Beloved*: this was a *doomed mission* from the start.

If you add to God's Word, you do so at your own peril. Some of you think that salvation is a matter of *believe* then *live the way I want to*. Oh boy, have you been sold a bill of goods. Salvation is by faith in Christ, but if you are saved *you will follow Christ in all things*. The Loving but Holy God Who made you also indwells and empowers you! Our Jesus said:

supporting **John 10:14-16** (NASB) **"I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, {15} even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. {16} "And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice; and**

**they shall become one flock with one shepherd."**

A *Christian* follows *Christ*, just as a sheep follows it's shepherd. While the Christian follows Christ *all things work together for his good*:

supporting **Romans 8:28** (KJV) "**And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.**"

Had the twelve spies went in and did as God commanded

5. Did Israel *ever* have the ability to save itself? (Exodus 14:27-28)

6. Does *anyone* ever have the ability to save themselves? Who is *ultimately* in control? (John 10:14-16; Romans 8:28)

7. Moses added to the \_\_\_\_\_, which led to the problems of the ten spies (Numbers 13:2; compared with Deuteronomy 1:21-23)

- just examine the land and *know that God gave it to them* - then this first generation would have entered into the Promised Land. If they had went into this place of milk and honey (**Exodus 3:8; 3:17; 13:5, et al**) believing, they would have blessed Israel. They followed a different path, much to the sorrow of that nation.

### **When The Word of God Is Added To The Obstacles Become Greater Than God**

FOCAL **Numbers 13:2** (KJV) "**Send thou men, that they**

**may search<sup>1</sup> the land of Canaan, which I give<sup>2</sup> unto the children of Israel ... .**

The *emphasis* that God wanted to put on this exploration trip was that "**which I give<sup>2</sup> unto the children of Israel**". God was giving this land to Israel, just as He gave that nation its freedom from Egypt. Look at this passage:

supporting **Numbers 13:23** (KJV) "**And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs.**"

The land was *unbelievably rich*. Can you imagine *one cluster of grapes* that was so big it took *two men* to transport it? This was truly a rich land! When these men came back after forty days of exploration they said:

supporting **Numbers 13:27** (KJV) "**... We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.**"

Had the ten spies stopped here Israel would have been blessed. One cluster of grapes being carried by two people! But the ten spies didn't stop here, but they began to think of *all the reasons that this was a cursing instead of a blessing*. They said:

supporting **Numbers 13:28** (KJV) "**Nevertheless the people be strong<sup>5</sup> that dwell in the land, and the cities**  
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**are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there."**

Nevertheless or but often proceeds many lives, and usually results in a total loss of blessing. "It's everything

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ became insurmountable because the Word of God was added to. (Numbers 13:2; 13:28).

9. Many failures in life are *prefixed* with that word \_\_\_\_\_. (Numbers 13:28)

10. What gives me the power to overcome the world? Am I a "Caleb" or one of the other ten spies in my relationship with God? (1 John 5:4-5; Numbers 13:30)

11. Did Caleb have a "bed full of roses" life? (Matthew 15:26)

you said BUT". Ten spies stepped out on *human ability* not on the *Word and Promise of God*, and the ten spies were *overwhelmed* by what was confronting them.

### **the people be strong**

They said (Hebrew) '**am 'az**<sup>5</sup>, the people are *strong, fierce*. They're much stronger than we are! Well, that's true - these people were stronger than the Israelites.

Further,

### **the cities are walled, and very great**

Not only are these people *offensively stronger* than we are, they are *defensively stronger*. Again, this is a true

statement. The last time Israel lived *behind walls* was when she was in Egyptian bondage. This was *impressive* for these people had more than Israel had. And one more thing: these people were descended from

### **the children of Anak**

That's a whole family of giants! How can we fight giants? Anak, by the way, is where the giant Goliath came from. Ten men went out focusing on the *physical* rather than on God. They looked at **Moses**, at the **cities with their walls**, at the **strong enemy** - but they failed to look at the *spiritual*. They failed to focus on God!

The Bible says:

supporting **1 John 5:4-5** <sup>(NASB)</sup> **"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. {5} And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"**

We have an *overcoming faith* because we have an *overcoming God*! When we look around us at the physical world the believer *must remember* that all that is physical was created - and is still controlled - by our Overcoming God. Ten spies looked at the obstacles and were overwhelmed by them, whereas two spies looked at the God Who sent them. We must look beyond the physical and grasp hold of the *spiritual*. We must look beyond our own abilities and *hold tight* to our Jesus, the God Who loves us so much.

Caleb looked at the *challenges* in the land - not as *problems* but as *opportunities to overcome*. Listen to the words of Caleb:

supportingNumbers 13:30 (KJV) **"And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it."**

When I look at Caleb, I see a man who *did not have an easy life*. Caleb - pronounced **kaw-labe**, is a name that means **DOG**. Among the ancient Jews dogs were considered *unclean*. It was an insult to call someone a *dog*. Our Lord Jesus, when He tested the Gentile woman, said to her *prior* to healing her *demon possessed* daughter:

**Matthew 15:26 (NASB) "... It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."**

Think about that! Caleb was a man whose parents named him that most vile name of *Dog*. I can imagine the children he played with as he was growing up mocking him - "Here doggie, doggie - look at the Dog". Yet Caleb grew up with that cursed name ignoring the taunts and focusing on God. Caleb looked at the obstacles of the Promised Land and saw *opportunities for God to bless Israel*.

Caleb said "Let's go now! Let's quit looking for reasons to *fail*, and trust in God Who saved us! God has promised the land - let's possess it! It's ours, let's go get it!" The *unbelieving heart*, however, says:

supportingNumbers 13:31 (KJV) **"We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we."**

The ten spies spoke truly - the inhabitants of that Promised Land were stronger than they were. The children of Anak were giants, seven to nine feet in height. There were many more *unbelievers* than there were believers in the land. Physically it was a stacked deck.

But God *promised* - and this is what they should have held on to. As the Prophet Jeremiah said:

**Jeremiah 32:17 (KJV) "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:"**

God made it all - and God gave a piece of what He made to Israel. If they had believed God greater than the obstacles, the Creator greater than the created - then that generation would have been blessed instead of cursed.

**When You Make The Obstacles Greater Than God  
This Is Sin - And Sin Brings Death**

FOCALNumbers 13:2 (KJV) **"Send thou men, that they may search<sup>1</sup> the land of Canaan, which I give<sup>2</sup> unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler<sup>3</sup> among them.**

Every one of these spies were *rulers*- blessed by the

Grace of God. The only thing that made them *rulers* was the fact that they were *firstborn*, or they were *chosen* by God. They were rulers in a nation that *had been under bondage*, enslaved to Egypt. The fact that these rulers were chosen in itself is expressive of the Grace of God, for rulers in a nation of slaves are not rulers at all.

Israel was free because God saved her. These rulers were rulers because of the Grace of God. The Bible says of the Christian saved by faith:

**INTENSE!** Galatians 4:3-7 (KJV) "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: {4} But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, {5} To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. {6} And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. {7} Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Just as Israel was enslaved to Egypt, you were *enslaved to the world*. Egypt had you making mud bricks, and you chased after the things of the world, striving to be great in your own power. God because of His mighty Love sent forth His Son to purchase your redemption, to bring you out of the world - Egypt - and into His glorious light. If you have accepted Christ as Savior you are *rulers*, no more servants of Egypt but sons of God - heirs of God *through Christ*.

Israel forgot that their empowerment came by the Grace of God. They compared themselves to the world, and fell into unbelief. Unbelief is evil - and sets up a *domino effect*. Look at what happened:

<sup>supporting</sup> Numbers 13:33 (KJV) "And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight."

<sup>5</sup> dibbah {pronounced dib-baw'}, evil or defaming

12. When I make the obstacle greater than God, what am I doing? (Numbers 13:2; Galatians 4:3-7; Hebrews 3:12; Numbers 13:33)

13. Am I able, *in my own power*, to emerge victorious in life?

By turning their eyes from God to the world, they saw themselves as *grasshoppers*. How many times have you fallen victim to the *grasshopper effect* of sin? Your eyes turn from God, and turn toward the *overwhelming odds* that face you.

**Hebrews 3:12 (KJV) "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."**

Unbelief is actually a state of *walking away from God*, believing Him to be less than Almighty. This morning our Sunday School lesson discussed the *sovereignty of God*, how God is in control of all situations. God

condemned Israel through the Prophet Habakkuk because the people trusted the *thing made* more than they trusted the Maker.

The God Who sent Israel across the Jordan to possess the Promised Land is the same God Who saved Israel from Egypt. The God Who ordered the spies to inventory the land is the same God Who drowned Pharaoh and his armies in the Red Sea. God did the MOST for Israel when He drew them out of Egypt - will He not do the LEAST now and give them that which He has promised?

I find it an interesting parallel that God saved Israel from Egypt through a series of *ten plagues*, and now *ten men acting like plagues* were destroying Israel! Those Israelites who were saved by God's power from Egypt had to *trust God* and *do what He said*. When God said, "Put the Blood on the doorposts", the believer put the Blood on the doorposts. When God said, "saddle up and move out", the believer got his household in order and followed God. Would that Israel had followed God now!

<sup>supporting</sup>**Numbers 14:1 (KJV) "And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. "**

Notice the *progression of unbelief*. Israel's heart turn from God to the world. Israel looked at the world - and was overwhelmed. Israel, overwhelmed, began to *hopelessly despair* for they were in an impossible situation.

<sup>supporting</sup>**Numbers 14:2 (KJV) "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! "**

Israel began to *look for someone to blame for their trouble*, and began to blame anyone but themselves. They began to blame Moses and Aaron - and, I agree, Moses was partly responsible. But *everyone but God* was to blame! The people actually *named their own means of punishment* when they said, "**would God we had died in this wilderness!**". Oh, they were going to die there, all right. An entire generation would die in the wilderness because they disbelieved God's Word. Finally we see:

<sup>supporting</sup>**Numbers 14:3 (KJV) "And wherefore hath the LORD 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?"**

Now they blame God! God is not to blame! This should have been a time of rejoicing! God had brought Israel from Egypt, right to the banks of the Jordan. God promised them the land. They should have been happy, rejoicing. But where unbelief is, there is no happiness or joy. Where the faith of Israel, *or of the Christian*, is not *put into faithful action*, there is no happiness.

**C.H. Spurgeon** wrote:

**"Is it so, that I, a believer in Jesus, unworthy as I am, am the object of the eternal love of God? What transport lies in that thought! Long before the Lord**  
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**began to create the world, he had thought of me. Long before Adam fell or Christ was born, and the angels sang their first choral over Bethlehem's miracle, the eye and the heart of God were toward his elect people."**

God *loved Israel before it ever became Israel*, and promised to lead them to a place of milk and honey while Abraham was yet in Chaldea. God loved you *before you ever knew Him*, and wooed you to salvation by faith in Christ Jesus so that you would love Him back. God brought you out of Egypt to take you to a place of blessing - a place of milk and honey. The same God Who said:

**1 John 4:19 (KJV) "We love him, because he first loved us."**

and,

**Galatians 1:3-4 (KJV) "... our Lord Jesus Christ, {4} Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:"**

is the same God Who is with the believer now and into eternity. Rebuke the spirit of unbelief. Believe that God is able, and then *act out* your faith. *Israel* had to act out her faith to be blessed, and *the Christian* must act out his faith to be blessed.

**Not "Do It Yourself", But Repentance Is Needed**

If you could *work your way to God*, then why would Jesus have needed to die for our sins? So many rely on the "Do it yourself" approach to religion. How foolish! As C.H. Spurgeon said:

**"The moment a sinner trusts Jesus he is fully forgiven. The text, being written in the present tense, also indicates continuance; it was "cleanseth" yesterday, it is "cleanseth" to-day, it will be "cleanseth" tomorrow: it will be always so with you, Christian, until you cross the river; every hour you may come to this fountain, for it cleanseth still. Notice, likewise, the completeness of the cleansing, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin"-not only from sin, but "from all sin." Reader, I cannot tell you the exceeding sweetness of this word, but I pray God the Holy Ghost to give you a taste of it. Manifold are our sins against God. Whether the bill be little or great, the same receipt can discharge one as the other. The blood of Jesus Christ is as blessed and divine a payment for the transgressions of blaspheming Peter as for the shortcomings of loving John; our iniquity is gone, all gone at once, and all gone for ever."**

14. Unbelief begins a domino effect that leads to loss of \_\_\_\_\_ from God. (Numbers 14:1-2; 14:21-24)

When Israel failed it was literally a *comedy of errors*, but at any point I am confident that *repentance* would have returned them to God's bosom. God is *love*, but God is *holy love* - and *love forgives* but *demands repentance*.

Once God was abandoned, once faith left by the side of the road, Israel decided the "DIY" path was the best path to follow. She said:

supporting **Numbers 14:4 (KJV)** **"And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt."**

Bad move! Our God is *longsuffering*, for love will wait patiently a long time. God was *longsuffering* with Noah's generation (**1 Peter 3:20**), but after many years the doors of salvation were closed and death moved on all who were without. God was longsuffering with Israel, and is longsuffering with us today. The Scripture says:

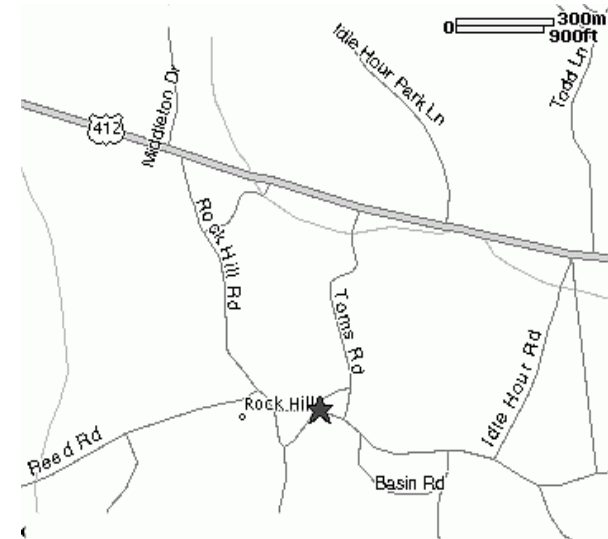
**2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)** **"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."**

Oh, how God wants to know you, to claim you, to have you come into the Family by faith in Christ! Yet you linger undecided, not choosing Christ, with one foot in the world. Repent if you are in this state! Do not allow God to say to you, as He did to Israel:

supporting **Numbers 14:21-24 (KJV)** **"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. {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, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: {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."**

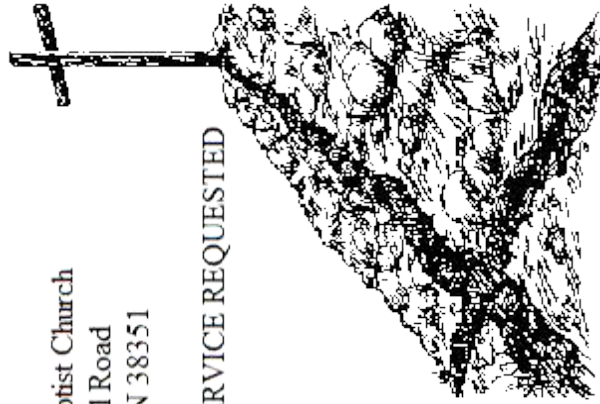
Turn fully to Christ our Savior while there is yet time. May God touch your heart with this message.



Rock Hill Baptist Church is located between Parsons and Lexington, Tennessee, on Highway 412. Look for our sign! We have services on Wednesdays (Adult, Youth, and children's Bible studies) at 7:00 PM, Sundays at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM. Rock Hill is a family oriented Bible believing Church - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever! Our Pastor, Brother David Buffaloe, will answer any questions you have about our Church if you contact him at 731-845-6104, or through his website at [bibleteacher.org](http://bibleteacher.org); or e-mail him by writing: [webmaster@bibleteacher.org](mailto:webmaster@bibleteacher.org)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# Wilderness of Paran

## Numbers 13:2-3; through 14

1. God is not only \_\_\_\_\_, but He is also \_\_\_\_\_. These two traits are *absolutes* in the *essence of God*. (1 John 4:8; Malachi 3:6; Psalm 99:5; Psalm 103:10-14)

2. The God of the Old Testament is the same as the \_\_\_\_\_. (Malachi 3:6)

3. What did GOD tell Israel to do? (Numbers 13:2)

4. What did MOSES tell Israel to do? (Numbers 13:17-20; Deuteronomy 1:21-23) Why did Moses do this?

5. Did Israel *ever* have the ability to save itself? (Exodus 14:27-28)

6. Does *anyone* ever have the ability to save themselves? Who is *ultimately* in control? (John 10:14-16; Romans 8:28)

7. Moses added to the \_\_\_\_\_, which led to the problems of the ten spies (Numbers 13:2; compared with Deuteronomy 1:21-23)

8. The \_\_\_\_\_ became insurmountable because the Word of God was added to. (Numbers 13:2; 13:28).

9. Many failures in life are *prefixed* with that word \_\_\_\_\_. (Numbers 13:28)

10. What gives me the power to overcome the world? Am I a "Caleb" or one of the other ten spies in my relationship with God? (1 John 5:4-5; Numbers 13:30)

11. Did Caleb have a "bed full of roses" life? (Matthew 15:26)

12. When I make the obstacle greater than God, what am I doing? (Numbers 13:2; Galatians 4:3-7; Hebrews 3:12; Numbers 13:33)

13. Am I able, *in my own power*, to emerge victorious in life?

14. Unbelief begins a domino effect that leads to loss of \_\_\_\_\_ from God. (Numbers 14:1-2; 14:21-24)