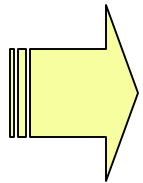


Numbers Outline (by Census)

- I. **The experiences of the 1st generation in the wilderness** (1:1 – 25:18)
 - A. The Census of the 1st generation, the Levites (1:1 – 4:49)
 - B. Instructions and Laws in preparation for the march to the land of promise (5:1 – 10:32)
 - C. Rebellion and judgment of an unbelieving people (10:33 – 25:18)
 - 1. Rebellion, atonement and death (11:1 – 20:29)
 - 2. Hope, final rebellion, and an end of their dying (21:1 – 25:18)
- II. **The preparation of the 2nd Generation for entry into the Land of Promise** (26:1 – 36:13)
 - A. The 2nd census and instructions for their entry (26:1 – 30:16)
 - B. Vengeance on the Midianites (31:1 – 54)
 - C. Settlement of the tribes east of the Jordan (32:1 – 42)
 - D. Final instructions and preparations (33:1 – 36:13)



Numbers by Chapter 11-25



- 11 The people and Moses complain, 70 elders, quail and judgment
- 12 The opposition of Miriam and Aaron
- 13 The 12 spies and the mixed report
- 14 Israel's rebellion and defeat
- 15 Laws on offerings, sin, the Sabbath, tassels
- 16 Korah's rebellion
- 17 Vindication of the true priesthood, the budding of Aaron's rod
- 18 Duties of the priests and Levites
- 19. Laws of purification – the red heifer

- 20. Moses' disobedience
- 21. The bronze serpent
- 22-24 Balaam and Balak
- 25 Israel's final rebellion

I.C.1

I.C.2

Numbers 12-13 Summary

- Chapter 12: An individual challenge to leadership (Miriam)
Principle Lesson: God does not take lightly challenges or accusations against His appointed leadership.
- Chapter 13: A community challenge to leadership (the 10 spies)
Principle Lesson: When making decisions, we need to be guided by God's Word and not our circumstances or perceptions.

Underlying currents:

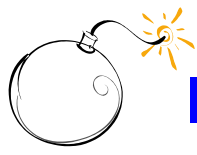
1. the continuing unbelief of the people
(see Deut 1:30-32 and Num 14:11)
2. the difficulties and challenges of leadership

Numbers – The Unbelief of Israel

- Deut. 1:30-32 “The Lord your God who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went, until you came to this place. **Yet for all that, you did not believe the Lord your God**, who went in the way before you to search out a place for you...”

See also Num. 14:11 “...**despite all the signs I have performed in their midst?**”

Seeing the miracles of God on our behalf does not necessarily produce faith/belief.



Israel's History of Murmurings and Disobedience

1. Ex. 14:10-12 At the Red Sea where Israel thought Pharaoh's army would destroy them
2. Ex. 15:22-24 At Marah – the bitter water
3. Ex. 16:1-3 In the desert of Sin as they hungered
4. Ex. 16: 19-20 In the desert of Sin – disregarded Moses' command regarding the storing of manna until the morning
5. Ex. 16:27-30 In the desert of Sin – disregarded Moses' instructions regarding the gathering of manna on the 7th day
6. Ex. 17:1-4 At Rephidim – complained for water
7. Ex. 32:1-35 At Mt. Sinai – the golden calf
8. Num. 11:1-3 At Taberah (burnings)
9. Num. 11"4-34 At Kibroth Hataavah (graves of craving)
10. Num. 14:1-3 At Kadesh in the Desert of Paran – wished they were dead



Miriam



- Older sister of Moses
- Watched from a distance when Moses was put into the basket and into the river. (Ex. 2:4)
- Arranged for Moses' mother to nurse him. (Ex. 2:7)
(She had the courage to speak with Pharaoh's daughter.)
- A prophetess (Ex. 15:20)
- "Song of Miriam" after the Red Sea crossing – led all of the women (Ex. 15:20)
- Sent by God to Israel as part of the leadership team (Mic. 6:4)
- She was a woman highly regarded in the community.

Why did she do what she did:

1. Aspirations to leadership?
2. Jealous of Moses' relationship with God?
3. Thought of herself more highly than she ought to have thought?

Lessons from Chapter 12

1. Be content in whatever position God has placed you.
Do what God has equipped you to do.
2. It is a serious offense to speak against the anointed of God. *“Touch not mine anointed, do my prophets no harm.”* I Chron. 16:22
3. God will vindicate His own.
4. Let God exalt you.
5. We see God’s mercy in restoring Miriam within 7 days.
6. When confessing sin, see Aaron’s example:
 - o I did it
 - o I sinned
 - o I acted foolishlyHe was straightforward and honest.
He assumed responsibility for his actions.
7. The need for and the reward of Intercession

Lessons from Chapter 12

8. Moses' example of Godly character – He still interceded for the one who had just been unjustly accusing him.
9. A pretext is sometimes used to mask our true motives.
10. In your walk of faith, do not be surprised if you experience opposition from a family member or a close friend.
11. God's omnipresence (an essential ingredient in our "Fear of God" formula)
12. Having the fear of the Lord will keep us from evil actions.
13. Jealousy is a dangerous and costly enemy. (Observe its cost upon Miriam.)
14. Our actions (sins) affect the body. (Miriam's actions delayed the movement of the camp by 7 days.)



Fear of God Ingredients

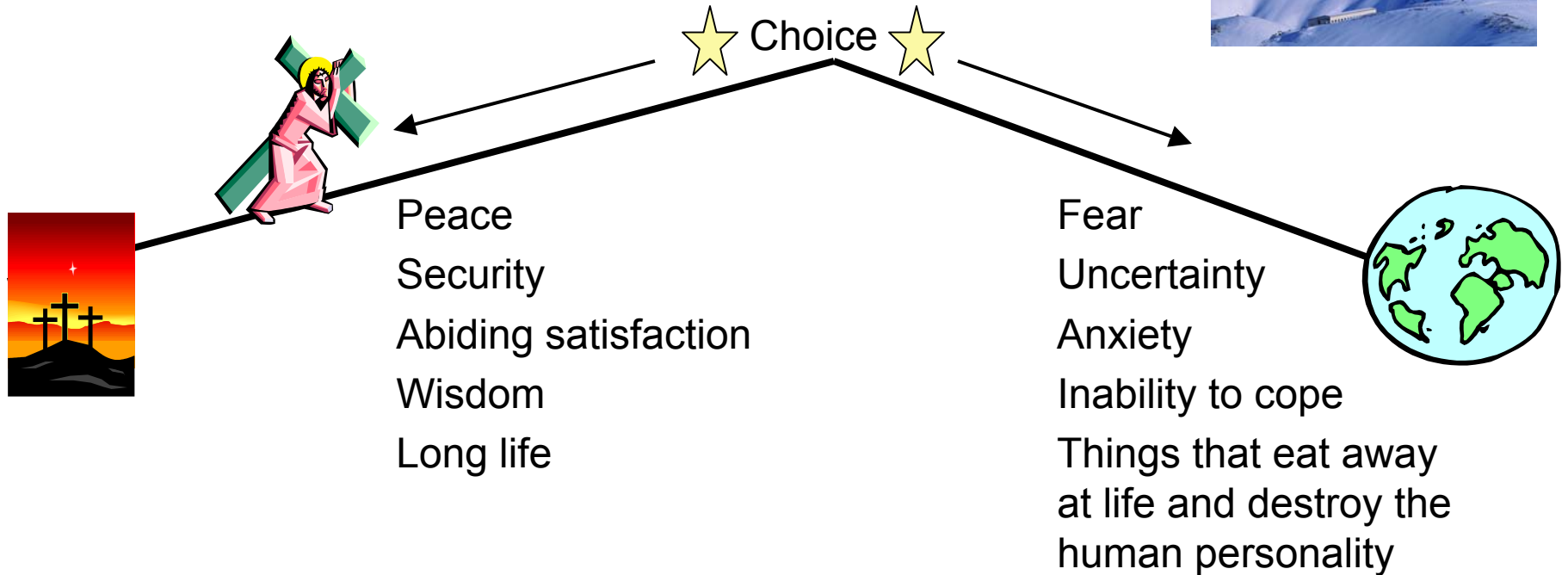
1. Having right views of who He is and what He does (see Ps 145)
2. Having a pervading sense of His presence (Ps 139)
(omnipresence)
3. Having a constraining awareness of our obligation to this great God (Heb 12)

Chapter 13 Outline

- 1-2 The command of God the Lord
- 3-16 Selection and names of the spies
- 17-20 Instructions for spying out the land
- 21-24 Spying out the land – 40 days
- 25-29 The bad report
- 30 Caleb's report
- 31-34 The bad report sways the people

The Enormity of the Decision

- The Fear of the Lord is a watershed of life
(flows in opposite directions with opposite destinations)



Which destination will you choose?

What is another watershed of life? (resulting in different destinations)

Clue: We just completed a study of this.

Lessons from Chapter 13



1. The enormity of a few decisions we make in our lives.
2. How desperately the Israelites needed spiritual eyes of faith.
3. Being a leader does not assure faithfulness in the walk before God.
4. They would not enter the land of promise because of their unbelief. (“We are not able to go up.” v.30)
In essence they were saying “God cannot do it.”
5. In unbelief, we fear man more than God.
6. The fear of man magnifies our fear. (“We became as grasshoppers in our own sight.”)
7. Be cautious of inclining toward a decision just because the majority support it.

Lessons from Chapter 13

8. In this account, we see the importance of having God's wisdom and faith at crucial points in our lives.
9. Did the 12 spies get together before they returned to discuss the results they would present? (Wisdom in the multitude of counselors)
10. The spies overstepped the boundaries of their responsibility, i.e. report the facts; **not**: make a command decision
11. Moses and Aaron made a strategic mistake: They should have had the spies report to them privately first before sharing the information with the whole community.
12. When in a trial, we should be guided by God's Word, not by our physical circumstances or perceptions.
13. At times, we will not know the result of our decision until we've made it.

