

## The Story: Chapter 6 Missing the Promise

Review: They had completed the Tabernacle.

### **Exodus 40:34-38**

<sup>34</sup> Then the cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup> Moses could not enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud had settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup> In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; <sup>37</sup> but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. <sup>38</sup> So the cloud of the Lord was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their travels.

The people of Israel camped around Mt. Sinai for about a year before they would continue their journey toward Canaan.

During this time we see God preparing His people for life in the Promised Land.

**EX:** When you're leaving on your cross country trip with the kids in the back of the car. You have to lay out the guidelines:

- Do not touch each other
- Don't throw anything out the window
- Don't ask are we there yet
- You WILL go to the bathroom whenever we stop so that we don't have to stop again.

**Book of Leviticus:** God gives them the laws and regulations for worship including instructions on ceremonial cleanness, moral laws, holy days, etc...

Leviticus and Numbers give a history of the preparations for moving from Mt. Sinai to Canaan, the Promised Land!

Here we go...

### **Numbers 10:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> On the twentieth day of the second month of the second year, the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. <sup>12</sup> Then the Israelites set

out from the Desert of Sinai and traveled from place to place until the cloud came to rest in the Desert of Paran. <sup>13</sup> They set out, this first time, at the Lord's command through Moses.

Within one chapter's time, they are already complaining about not having enough food to eat.

God gets angry with them and the Moses steps in with his thoughts:

### **Numbers 11:11-15**

<sup>11</sup> He asked the Lord, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? <sup>12</sup> Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their forefathers? <sup>13</sup> Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!' <sup>14</sup> I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup> If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin."

God provides them with so much meat

### **Numbers 11:18-20**

... "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the Lord will give you meat, and you will eat it. <sup>19</sup> You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, <sup>20</sup> but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the Lord, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

Then we end up in the Desert of Paran, a place called Kadesh Barnea, just a little south of Canaan.

God tells Moses the next step:

### **Numbers 13:1-3**

**13** The Lord said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders." <sup>3</sup> So at the Lord's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

They sent them into the land that God had promised them hundreds of years before.

This is their report:

### **Numbers 13:26-28**

<sup>26</sup> They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> They gave Moses this account: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there.

Here’s what they tell them: The land is as wonderful as we’ve been told it would be but we are not strong enough to go take it from those already living there.

Remember what they’ve already seen:

- They saw all the plagues God brought on Pharaoh.
- They walked through the Red Sea on dry ground.
- He has protected them and taken care of every need for the last year.
- He has already promised them that He would make sure they got this land.

And, they don’t want to go because of FEAR!!

This is how bad it got:

Caleb, one of the spies, said this...

### **Numbers 13:30**

“We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

The other ten spies spent the night spreading a bad report about the land so that the people were in an uproar.

This is where we see a critical statement from the people of Israel:

### **Numbers 14:2-4**

If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert! <sup>3</sup> Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup> And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

After this Caleb and Joshua, the two spies that were all in told the people that the land was wonderful and with God's help, they could go take it for themselves.

Then...

### **Numbers 14:10**

<sup>10</sup> But the whole assembly talked about stoning them.

God shows up and has another talk with Moses. He wants to kill all of these people and start over again.

After He meets with Moses this is the result:

### **Numbers 14:20-24**

<sup>20</sup> The Lord replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. <sup>21</sup> Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, <sup>22</sup> not one of the men who saw my glory and the miraculous signs I performed in Egypt and in the desert but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times—  
<sup>23</sup> not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their forefathers. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it. <sup>24</sup> But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

Listen: They LOST the PROMISED LAND because of FEAR.

- With all they had seen and all that God had already done for them, they still could not trust Him to do what He said He would do.

### **First Question for you today?**

What promise has God made to you that FEAR is keeping you from receiving?

- Peace
- Provision
- Forgiveness

- The guarantee of eternal life??

### **Isaiah 41:10 NAS**

10 ‘Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’

After He tells them they’re not going to the Promises Land

### **Numbers 14:28-31**

<sup>28</sup> So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you say: <sup>29</sup> In this desert your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. <sup>30</sup> Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. <sup>31</sup> As for your children that you said would be taken as plunder, I will bring them in to enjoy the land you have rejected.

You used your children as an excuse.

Now they will be shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years because of you but I will take them into the land and let them enjoy the Promise I made.

But I want you to see something very important:

### **Numbers 14:25**

<sup>25</sup> Since the Amalekites and Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.”

### **Question Number 2:**

What area of your life has caused you to make a u turn in God’s plan?

Here’s the truth:

- God is not looking to kill you and start all over.
- He wants to get you to the place where He created you to be.

**REMEMBER:** He’s working from a view of the upper story.

Look at our world today!

- No more absolute truth
- No more Biblical definition of marriage
- All that we deal with in the area of gender identity