

ISRAEL CONDEMNED IN THE WILDERNESS

Read Numbers 13 & 14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12; Hebrews 3 & 4

1. Without looking at the Bible text – that is, from memory – list the names of the spies you can remember. Why is it that most people can remember the names of only two of the twelve? What lesson(s) does this teach you?
2. God told Moses to send spies into the land of Canaan not because God was lacking in knowledge and couldn't tell Moses all about its terrain, resources and people. If not the mere gathering of facts, what was the purpose of this reconnaissance mission?
3. Numbers 13:28 contains a word that expresses lack of faith. Using that word, write a sentence that expresses faith, underscoring that word.
4. What is the significance and connection of forty days and forty years during this episode in the history of Israel?
5. "Majority rules" is an accepted maxim, especially in a democracy. Illustrate the fallacy of this axiom from the example of the Israelites. Then relate a contemporary example.
6. What was Moses' primary concern when God expressed His displeasure at the faithlessness of "this people," by saying He was going to disinherit Israel? (Numbers 14:13-19) Compare / contrast Moses' response with that of many people today, including yourself.
7. Explain how the Israelites prevailed upon God's mercy by presuming His presence and blessing. (See Numbers 14:26-45)
8. On the reverse list lessons we are to learn from this history. See the New Testament references listed above.