

Numbers 14

¹¹ And the LORD said to Moses, “How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? ¹² I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”

¹³ But Moses said to the LORD, “Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, ¹⁴ and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O LORD, are in the midst of this people. For you, O LORD, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵ Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, ¹⁶ ‘It is because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.’ ¹⁷ And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, ¹⁸ ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.’ ¹⁹ Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now.”

²⁰ Then the LORD said, “I have pardoned, according to your word. ²¹ But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it. ²⁴ But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it. ²⁵ Now, since the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valleys, turn tomorrow and set out for the wilderness by the way to the Red Sea.”

Series: God's Story: Finding Our Place in His Unfolding Plan

Apr. 2 – Numbers 14 – God is Faithful, Even When We're Not If it Depended on Us...

What do our life stories say about God? How much depends on Him? Have we seen this in the stories of Bible characters?

How did the nation of Israel begin? What role did God play along the way? How did He sustain them through hardship?

How would you describe Israel's contribution to God's plan? Or their relationship with God, through Exodus?

Appealing to God's Purpose and Character (11-19)

In Numbers 14, what did God threaten to do, and why? Is He right to feel this way?

Moses pleads with God to spare Israel. Which two reasons does he give? (Exodus 32:12-13, 34:6-7)

Does God Change? (20-25)

Though God responds by changing His course, how does this actually show His consistency?

What can we say about God's purpose and character – that never change? (Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 19:5-6, Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 1:3-10, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, 1 Peter 2:9-12)

Saved for a Purpose

Does your life story speak of God's purpose and character?

Has God spared and blessed you for a purpose that is greater than yourself?

Has God loved you in a way that points to His goodness, rather than your own?

Take some time to answer these questions, and pray for a chance to share with others!