

REVIEW

It's often been said that a smart man learns from his mistakes, but a wise man learns from the mistakes of others

If we look at a map the question arises, “Why did it take Israel 40 years to travel a straight-line distance of 240 miles?”

Unbelief creates a cycle of falling apart, recovering, falling apart, not knowing how to walk in victory

Two hundred forty miles required, six miles a year to get there...seems incredibly slow even for people on foot...40 yards a day

In reality forty years wandering wasn't a journey, it was a death sentence to those who rebelled against God and His direction

Instead of a relatively direct course, the generation who refused to enter the land became a journey without destination

The unbelieving spies saw the giants but not God – We are to walk by faith not by sight...to fix our eyes on Him who is invisible

Did God know what was in the land? Absolutely! – Does God know how difficult it will be? Absolutely! – God knows what He is doing!

Israel flatly rejected God's plan - Caleb and Joshua tried to turn their hearts knowing the Lord would go before them, but to no avail

TEARS OF UNBELIEF - NUMBERS 14:1-10

Why the tears? – Israel in a barren desert with enemies all around them, fortified cities, and no longer trusted God's faithfulness

“Grasshopper complex”...dark clouds of unbelief – Instead of God and His resources, they turn to unbelief and rebellion

They want God's leaders dead – Why? – Because Caleb and Joshua told the truth – Truth that required them to believe in God's faithfulness

Do we recoil from truth if it gets too personal, uncomfortable or painful to face? – “Sanctify them in truth, Thy Word is truth.” – John 17:17

The land is not heaven – If we're not to have battles why do we need the full armor of God if there are to be no conflicts? – Ephesians 6

Jesus won the victory on the cross, has called us to co-labor with Him, fighting powers and principalities and spiritual wickedness – 2 Cor. 10:4

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.” – Psalm 23

“Do not be afraid of sudden fear, nor the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; for the Lord will be your confidence...” – Prov. 3:25

“The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.” - The fear of man is a waste of good energy – Prov. 29:25

IF I SAY

“I can't manage.” – God's says, “My God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” – Phil. 4:19

“It's impossible.” – God says, “All things are possible.” – What is impossible with men is possible with God – Matt. 19:26

“I'm afraid.” - God tells us that He has not given us a spirit of fear or timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline – 2 Tim. 1:7

“I can't do it.” - God says, you can do all things through Him who strengthens you – Philippians 4:13

“I'm not able.” – “God is able to make all grace abound so that all things, at all times, having all that you need, abounding in every good work – 2 Cor. 9:8

“It's not worth it.” - God says, “All things work together for good, for those that love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” – Rom 8:28

MOSES' FAITHFULNESS

“And the Lord said to Moses, ‘How long will this people spurn Me? And how long will they not believe in Me, despite all the signs which I have performed in their midst? I will smite and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they.’ – Numbers 14:11-12

This was Moses' golden opportunity to have it all – Moses was not a self-seeker and had no unholy ambitions or selfish aspirations

Moses was totally occupied with the Lord's glory – Moses, the most humble man on all the earth intercedes for wayward Israel

God pardons but also governs – He forgives but the consequences for Israel's unbelief kept an entire generation from entering the land

God doesn't get deterred by our failures - As truly as I live, all the earth will be filled with His glory – Numbers 14:21

A high price for unbelief...wandering and death for 38 years until the rebels' children enter the land to possess it

MORE TEARS BUT NO REPENTANCE

Grasshoppers are no match for giants - The Lord's presence secures our victory – An Israelite without God is no match for an Amelikitte

“And when Moses spoke these words to all the sons of Israel, the people mourned greatly.” – Num/ 14:39 – Remorseful but not repentant

Once again, their tears were about themselves not God – vs. 40-45 – Tears with no desire to obey God is height of folly

“Sorrow according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation; but sorrow of world produces death.” 2Cor. 7:10

Presumptively, Israel went into battle without God, when their only hope was to go with God in the first place – SOUNDLY DEFEATED

May we be ever conscious that it is the Lord with us and among us...that He alone secures our victory in any and every circumstance

It's been 3,500 years since the Exodus – His truth is marching on through His Word by His Spirit in His church! Hallelujah!