

**Third Presbyterian Church**  
**Midweek Bible Study**  
**Miracle Series – Miracle of the promised Land**  
**Lesson 28 – Fearful of God's Miracle Promise**

Numbers 13:17-20 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country.

<sup>18</sup> See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many.

<sup>19</sup> What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwallled or fortified? <sup>20</sup> How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

Numbers 13:26-33 (NIV)

<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. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

<sup>30</sup> Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." <sup>31</sup> But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." <sup>32</sup> And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size.

<sup>33</sup> We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

Numbers 14:8-10 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

<sup>10</sup> But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the LORD appeared at the Tent of Meeting to all the Israelites.

1. Faith is Behavior not just Belief! Discuss/explain the meaning of this statement.
2. How can the promised land that God has for each one of us specially cause some fear in us?
3. At times of great challenge, we don't rise to the occasion; we actually fall to the level of our faith.
  - a. Have discussion about the truth of this statement and what it means for how we are to prepare for challenges/storms in our lives.
4. How is fear the enemy of faith?
  - a. What kinds of fears keep people from taking risks for God?
5. How is it difficult to stand up for what you believe when others disagree with you?
6. How are Christians to respond when they don't agree with church leadership?
7. Without risk, there is no growth. What specific risk do you think God is calling you to take for Him?
8. How can trusting in Christ give you the courage to face difficulties this coming week?
9. Share your main takeaway from the sermon and the lesson?

**The Final Tragic Failure that Dooms the People—the Twelve Spies and Their Mixed Report: Distrusting God—Being Negative and Defeated, Fearful and Unbelieving—Rejecting and Rebelling against God, 13:1-14:45**

**(13:1-14:45) Introduction— Negativism, Attitude of— Defeatism, Attitude of— Unbelief, Attitude of— Israel, Failure of:** there is an attitude that will defeat and sometimes destroy a person—that of negativism.

There are several words that describe a negative attitude:

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| ⇒ defeated    | ⇒ cynical     |
| ⇒ fearful     | ⇒ pessimistic |
| ⇒ unbelieving | ⇒ despairing  |

A negative attitude is often unwilling to face the facts, to face the truth of a situation. In fact, a negative attitude that is deeply rooted will often lead to rebellion, an unwillingness to listen and follow the truth.

This was the fundamental problem with Israel: a negative, defeatist, fearful, unbelieving attitude. The result was tragic: rebellion against God and His dear servant Moses.

This present passage is the climax to the history of the first generation of Israelites. This rebellion was the final blow, the tenth rebellion of unbelief and grumbling within two years. However, in this rebellion, God knew their hearts would never change, never trust Him and His Word—not fully, not completely, not like they should. God had no choice. God had to judge His people and judge them permanently. Negativism, defeatism, unbelief, fear, and rebellion were all embedded too deeply within their hearts. They were self-willed, stubborn, and stiff-necked, grounded as hard as concrete in their refusal to follow God. They simply refused to enter the promised land as God demanded: through sheer faith in His Word, believing the promises of God—in particular the promises of the promised land and the promised seed (a symbol of the coming Savior of the world, Christ Jesus Himself).

Again, this is the climactic passage that dooms the first generation of Israelites from ever entering the promised land. This is: *The Final Tragic Failure that Dooms the People—the Twelve Spies and Their Mixed Report: Distrusting God—Being Negative and Defeated, Fearful and Unbelieving—Rejecting and Rebelling against God, 13:1-14:45*

1. The command to send 12 men to spy out the land of Canaan (v.1-25).
2. The report and different conclusion of the spies (v. 26-33).
3. The fatal response of the people: grumbling, fear, unbelief, and rebellion (v.1-10).
4. The anger and fierce judgment of the Lord and the intercession of Moses (v.10-25).
5. The declaration of God's charge and judgment (discipline, chastisement) (v.26-39).
6. The incomplete confession and defeat of Israel acting without God (v.40-45).

**1. (13:1-25) Joshua, Name of— Spies, the Twelve— Israel, Leaders of, Weak— Canaan, Land of:** there was the command to send twelve men to spy out the land of Canaan. At last, the Israelites had reached the Desert of Paran that was to be the launching point for entering the promised land. The journey had been long and difficult, primarily because of the unbelief—the grumbling and complaining of the people. So many of them had caused problem after problem with their complaints and divisiveness, arousing the chastisement of God against them. But now—at long last—here they stood ready to enter the promised land, ready to experience the fulfillment of all their hopes and dreams. But before they entered, they needed to spy out the land. They needed to gather all the tactical information they could about the land and the people living there, to learn all they could about what pitfalls and enemies might lie ahead.

1. The men selected as spies were to be leaders, one from each of the twelve tribes (Numbers 13:2-15). They were sent out from their present position, the Desert of Paran (Numbers 13:3). Note that the spies were selected from the leadership of each tribe. They were obviously outstanding young men, men of courage with spirits of adventure. Such traits within these young men had apparently caught the eye of Moses and the tribal leaders. They were:

- ⇒ from the tribe of Reuben: Shamuua (Numbers 13:4)

- ⇒ from the tribe of Simeon: Shaphat (Numbers 13:5)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Judah: Caleb (Numbers 13:6)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Issachar: Igal (Numbers 13:7)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Ephraim: Hoshea (Joshua) (Numbers 13:8)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Benjamin: Palti (Numbers 13:9)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Zebulun: Gaddiel (Numbers 13:10)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Manasseh: Gaddi (Numbers 13:11)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Dan: Ammiel (Numbers 13:12)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Asher: Sethur (Numbers 13:13)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Naphtali: Nahbi (Numbers 13:14)
- ⇒ from the tribe of Gad: Geuel (Numbers 13:15)

Note that the name of Joshua, the assistant to Moses, was changed from Hoshea to Joshua (Numbers 13:16). There is tenderness and destiny in this fact. Tenderness is seen in that it was Moses who actually changed Joshua's name. This points to a close, father-like relationship between Moses and Joshua. The destiny is also seen in the fact that Moses changed Joshua's name. By changing his name, Moses was pointing the people to Joshua as a future leader. Note the two names of Joshua: Hoshea means *salvation*; Joshua means *God saves*. His very name pictured the great salvation God was going to provide for His people in the promised land.

2. The mission of the spies was clear and thorough: they were to spy out the most southern part of Canaan, the Negev, and then move north through the hill country (Numbers 13:17-20). Their mission involved spying out most of the land of Canaan. Gordon J. Wenham says that Canaan would include modern-day Israel, Lebanon, and much of southern Syria. (See outline—Numbers 34:1-15; note—Numbers 34:1-15; and Map: Borders of the Promised Land of Canaan and The Mission of the Twelve Spies.) The spies were...

- to see if the people were strong or weak, few or many (Numbers 13:18)
- to see what the land was like, good or bad (Numbers 13:19)
- to see if the towns were fortified or unwallled (Numbers 13:19)
- to check the soil to see if it was fertile or poor, barren or full of trees (Numbers 13:20)
- to bring back samples of the fruit (it was grape season) (Numbers 13:20)

3. The mission was carried out. The spies launched their mission from the southern border at the Desert of Zin. This was just northeast of Kadesh (cp. Numbers 20:1; Joshua 15:1). They spied as far north as Rehob near Lebo Hamath which was at the northern frontier (cp. Numbers 34:8) (Numbers 13:21-25). The distance from south to north was about 250 miles, a total of about 500 miles, so the mission took them 40 days.

- a. The first city they spied out was Hebron (Numbers 13:22). What they found shocked them:
- ⇒ The Anakites lived there, that is, the giants of the land, the huge, towering people.
  - ⇒ The city of Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt. This emphasis probably means that the city was a large, well-fortified city with large buildings.

Note the report on Hebron: the spies said nothing about the part the city and area had played in the history of Abraham and the great promises God had made to him:

- ⇒ God made His promise to Abraham near Hebron, that he would inherit the promised land (Genesis 13:14-18).
  - ⇒ Abraham camped in the area of Hebron. It became his base of operations in rescuing Lot and defeating the coalition of kings who had conquered Sodom and Gomorrah and other surrounding areas (Genesis 14:13f).
  - ⇒ Abraham purchased some land in Hebron and buried his wife Sara there. Moreover, other patriarchs were later buried there—all believing in the great hope of the promised land (Genesis 23:1f; Genesis 25:9; Genesis 35:27f; Genesis 50:13).
- b. The spies explored the unusually fruitful Valley of Eshcol (Numbers 13:23-24). This valley was so productive, so fruitful that it was almost unbelievable. A single cluster of grapes was so large that it had to be carried on a pole by two men, along with other fruit. The valley was given the name Eshcol

by the Israelites because of the large grapes. The word Eshcol means "the valley of the cluster" (Numbers 13:24).

c. The spies returned after a 40 day mission (Numbers 13:25).

**Thought 1.** God is no respecter of persons. However, God does choose some persons to be leaders. He sees the human heart—and He knows who has the courage, strength, humility, and willingness to lead. This is the person whom God chooses and equips to lead.

1) God is no respecter of persons.

**"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34-35).**

**"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him" (Romans 10:12).**

2) God calls some to be leaders.

a) God called Abraham to be a leader.

**"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee" (Genesis 12:1).**

b) God called Moses to be a leader.

**"Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt" (Exodus 3:10).**

c) God called Gideon to be a leader.

**"And the Lord looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee" (Judges 6:14).**

d) God called Elisha to be a leader.

**"So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him" (1 Kings 19:19).**

e) God called Isaiah to be a leader.

**"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6:8).**

f) God called Paul to be a leader.

**"But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee" (Acts 26:16).**

g) God calls many today to be leaders.

**"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (John 15:16).**

**Thought 2.** There is a need for unbelievers to do just what the spies did: spy out and investigate the promised land of God. Unbelievers need to know that the promised land...

- is a land that flows with milk and honey, with all the provisions of God, all that man ever needs or could want
- is a land that assures conquest over all the pitfalls and enemies of life
- is a land that brings rest, both physical and spiritual rest, to the body and soul
- is a land that guarantees eternal life with God Himself

1) This is the land that the unbeliever needs to explore and investigate. This is heaven itself, the new heavens and earth promised by God.

**"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:10-13).**

2) The unbeliever needs to investigate and seek out the promised land of God

**"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).**

**"Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage" (Matthew 22:4).**

**Thought 3.** Moses changed Hosea's name to Joshua because Joshua was the appointed leader to lead God's people into the promised land (Numbers 13:16). The Greek name for Joshua is *Jesus*. Both Joshua and Jesus mean *God saves*. Joshua is a type of Christ. Jesus Christ is the Person who saves us and leads us into the promised land of heaven.

**"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).**

**"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).**

**"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:17).**

**2. (13:26-33) Spies, the Twelve— Joshua— Caleb— Unbelief— Canaan, Described— Promised Land, Described:** there was the spirit and the different conclusions of the spies. The spy mission had been a success: not a single soldier had been lost and a complete surveillance of the promised land had been made. The spies had carried out their mission and returned after 40 exhausting days in enemy territory. Now, the people were anxiously waiting on their report, filled with excitement and great expectation. They were soon to begin their march into the promised land of God. But unknown to them, a crushing and horrible shock was coming. Some of the spies were gripped with unbelief and were to give a negative report, a *defeatist* report.

1. The report was given to Moses, Aaron, and the entire community; then the fruit was shown to them (Numbers 13:26-29).

2. Note that the report given by the spies was mixed (Numbers 13:27-29). There was one strong, positive factor about the land: the land flowed with milk and honey. The proof was seen in the fruit they brought back (Numbers 13:27). The land was fertile, very productive and fruitful. It would abundantly feed the people and their livestock, giving them all they could ever need or desire.

But note what then happened: some of the spies were gripped with an attitude of *defeat*. They stressed the shocking, negative factors and then embellished the facts. Of course, they should report the truth about the land,

but we know from the response to their report that they gave the account in a negative, pessimistic way. Note how they continually stressed the negative:

- ⇒ The people who lived there were powerful and the cities fortified (be surot) and very large (Numbers 13:28). The idea of the Hebrew is that the cities were fortresses, impregnable—that they could not be taken.
- ⇒ The descendants of Anak, the giants, lived there (Numbers 13:28).
- ⇒ The Amalekites lived in the Negev (Numbers 13:29).
- ⇒ The Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites occupied the hill country.
- ⇒ The Canaanites occupied land along the seacoast (Mediterranean) and along the Jordan River (Numbers 13:29).

3. The conclusions reached by the spies were very divisive (Numbers 13:30-33). In fact, the negative, defeatist attitude of ten spies was so distrusting of God that their report is called a *bad, evil report* (Numbers 13:32).

- a. The conclusion of one spy—Caleb—was that of courage and strong faith. Note that he had to silence the leaders who stood around Moses before he could speak. As would be the case with any group of leaders who had heard such a negative, defeatist report, they had begun to murmur and discuss the issues among themselves. Boldly, forcefully—Caleb declared...
  - that they should go up and take possession of the promised land
  - that they could defeat the enemies of the promised land
- b. But the conclusion of the ten spies prevailed (Numbers 13:31-33). They continued to hold to their negative, unbelieving, defeatist position. They could not attack the enemies of the promised land, for they were stronger.

Then the unimaginable happened: a terrible, evil spirit of divisiveness took over the ten spies. They began to spread their bad, evil report (dibbah) among the people (Numbers 13:32). Note how they stressed, exaggerated, and distorted the negative factors:

- ⇒ The land—its hostile environment—consumes, swallows up the people living there. The environment is hostile: it takes a high toll upon human life (Numbers 13:32).
- ⇒ The people—all of them—are gigantic, absolutely huge: a complete distortion to arouse and win people to their defeatist, unbelieving position (Numbers 13:32).
- ⇒ The Nephilim, the descendants of Anak the giant, are there: the Israelites are like grasshoppers before them (Numbers 13:33).

This negative, defeatist attitude and this exaggerated, distorted report of the ten spies were to doom both the spies and the people. Imagine how Moses' heart was cut standing there before the spies, listening to their negativism and their unbelief and then hearing about them spreading their evil report among the people. Imagine how the heart of God was cut as He witnessed such irresponsible behavior and unbelief. The ten spies were declaring that God could not fulfill His promise to give them the promised land, that the power of God was not great enough to conquer the enemies of the promised land.

**Thought 1.** Three strong lessons are seen in this point.

- 1) The ten spies spread an evil report among the people. They exaggerated and distorted the truth. They became stumblingblocks to Israel. Scripture is clear: we are not to be stumblingblocks, not to cause people to stumble and fall.

**"But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in" (Matthew 23:13).**

- 2) The ten spies were gripped with fear and cowardice. Scripture is clear: believers are not to fear.

**"Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31).**

**"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue" (John 12:42).**

**"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7).**

3) The testimony of Caleb was that of strength and courage. Believers are to be strong and courageous. **"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13).**

**"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephes. 6:10).**

**3. (14:1-10) Unbelief— Grumbling— Murmuring— Complaining— Rebellion, Against God— Israel, Failure - Errors of:** there was the fatal response of the people. They grumbled, doubted, and feared. They failed to believe God and rebelled against Him. The negative, unbelieving, and defeatist report of the ten spies spread among the people like wildfire on a rampage, consuming everything in its path. What happened then was the fatal climax to a whole generation of people. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* gives a descriptive picture of the scene that is well worth quoting in full:

"The malicious report of the ten spies (13:26-33) spread throughout the populace like a vicious virus on rampage. The words of Caleb and Joshua were not heard. Everywhere people heard of walled cities, strong men, giants, and the fabled Nephilim. The giant clusters of grapes were a portent of doom. If clusters of grapes were as great as these, imagine what the people would be like! No one talked about God's grace. None recited his miracles. Forgotten was the act of God where the most powerful nation of their world was stymied at the rushing of waters back to their beds. The thunder of Sinai, the fire of God, that he had spoken and delivered and graced his people beyond imagination—all these things were forgotten in their...fear. Fear unchecked becomes its own fuel, a self-propelling force that expands as it expends. The words of a mid-twentieth-century American president, 'The only thing we have to fear is fear itself,' have their outworking in the self-consumptive absorption with terror that raged through the camps that night."

1. The grumbling unbelief of the people is emphasized: "all the people," "all the Israelites," "the whole assembly"—every adult was grumbling in unbelief. Not a single person was trusting God, believing that He could lead them into the promised land (Numbers 14:1-4). Note that they raised their voices and wept aloud (Numbers 14:1). The entire community was "wailing, as only people in the east can do.... We are to imagine the worst sort of rage, a picture of screaming, rending, throwing, cursing anger—an intoxication of grief."

- a. The people railed against Moses and Aaron.
- b. The people felt that death in Egypt or the desert would have been better.
- c. The people accused the LORD of forsaking them and their families (Numbers 14:3). They accused the LORD of bringing them up to the promised land only to let them be destroyed or enslaved by their enemies (Numbers 14:3).
- d. The people questioned if it would not be better to return to Egypt.
- e. The people, in fact, suggested that a new leader be chosen who would lead them back to Egypt (Numbers 14:4). We know from Nehemiah that the people actually chose a leader to stand opposed to Moses (Neh. 9:17). This shows that a riot was taking place. The people had made their decision: they wanted nothing else to do with Moses or God. They were in total rebellion against God and His appointed leader. They were on a rampage, storming about and making preparation to return back to Egypt. Since an opposition leader had already been chosen, the lives of Moses and Aaron were threatened. Again, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* gives an excellent picture of the scene:

"The more the people wailed, the more excessive their words. The more the people cried, the more they outreached one another in protests of rage. This is the crowd psychology that leads to riots, lynchings, stormings, and rampages. Now they begin to aim their anger more directly at Yahweh himself. Moses and Aaron were the fall guys, but the Lord was the one really to blame; he had delivered them from Egypt. He had



brought Pharaoh to his knees, had cast horse and rider into the sea, had led them through a barren land, and had provided bread from heaven and water from a gushing rock. He had spoken, revealing grace and wonder, power and gentleness, direction and Torah [law]. God was the one at fault! And they began to curse him, to condemn his goodness, to reject his grace.

"Forgetful of God's power against Egypt...the people worked themselves into such a frenzy of fear that they wished that God had not brought them here at all. Why had he not just left them alone? Slavery began to look good to them. The hovels in Egypt became home again. The memory of a variety of food made the memory of oppressive taskmasters less fearsome.

So it was that the frightening words of the faithless spies led to the mourning of the entire community and to their great rebellion against the Lord. They forgot all the miracles that the Lord had done for them; they contemned his mercies and spurned his might. In their ingratitude they preferred death (Numbers 14:2).

Unfortunately, it was death they deserved and death they were to get. The most reprehensible charge against the grace of God was that concerning their children (see Numbers 14:31-33). Only their children would survive. All the rest would die in the desert they had chosen over the Land of Promise."

2. Moses and Aaron did all they could: they fell face down before the people, helpless and submissive before God (Numbers 14:5). No doubt they did just what any committed believers would do under such circumstances: they prayed, seeking deliverance through the power of God.

3. The response of Joshua and Caleb was different (Numbers 14:6-9). These two young men tore their clothes in a symbol of ritual mourning. Then they declared the truthful facts about the land they had spied out: the land was exceedingly good. It would not consume the people as the other spies had claimed (Numbers 14:7).

⇒ The LORD would lead His people into the promised land if they would only obey and please Him. God would give the land—a land that flowed with milk and honey (Numbers 14:8).

⇒ The people must not rebel against the LORD nor be afraid of the inhabitants of the land (Numbers 14:9). God's people would swallow the inhabitants up, for the LORD was with His people.

4. But note what happened: the fatal rejection. The people plotted to assassinate, to stone the four godly leaders (Numbers 14:10).

**Thought 1.** Unbelief and rebellion are very serious offenses against God, very serious. God will not tolerate unbelief and rebellion from any person.

1) Scripture is clear: unbelief is condemned.

**"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).**

**"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).**

**"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (Hebrews 3:12).**

**"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief [Israel's unbelief]" (Hebrews 4:11).**

**"I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not" (Jude 5).**

2) Scripture is clear: rebellion against God is condemned.

**"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience [rebellion]" (Ephes. 5:6).**

**"In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thes. 1:8).**

Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible – Numbers.