



## ROUTE 66

### “Numbers: The Wandering”

Numbers 13-14

January 29, 2012 A.M. Service

#### The Old Generation Set Aside (1-20)

##### ✓ Directions For the People (1-12)

- Their Count
- Their Camp
- Their Cleansing & Consecration
- Their Complaining & Criticizing

##### ✓ Disobedience of the People (13-19)

- Their Doubt – *It Was Unfounded*
- The Spies Description – *It Was Different*
  - Disbelief & Distrust
  - Dependence
- Their Decision – *It Was Costly*
- Their Defense – *It Was Moses*
- Their Discipline – *It Was Severe*
- Their Disaster – *It Was Foolish*
- Their Destruction & Death – *It Happened*

#### The New Generation Set Apart (20-36)

- ✓ Recalling the Past
- ✓ Redeeming the Present
- ✓ Reviewing the Future

#### LEARN THE WORD

- ✓ Commit to Reading the Word of God every day in 2012 – put aside all your excuses and make the plunge that could forever change your life!
- ✓ Be a part of the of the Winter LifeTraks TONIGHT @ 5 p.m. that will help you get a better grasp on the Bible, how to study, understand, and apply it to your daily life better than ever before!

#### LOVE THE WORD

- ✓ Commit to being in Worship to hearing these messages from the entire Word of God in 2012
- ✓ Make time to mediate on the Word and upon Jesus – Who He Is; What He is done, and What He is doing right now in your life – Fall more in love with Jesus as you read and digest His Words to you!!

#### LIVE THE WORD

- ✓ Have you come to the place where you understand that without His deliverance in your life you are doomed? You can make that decision and be delivered today from your sin and self. You can become a follower by accepting this free gift of God; if you will by faith believe and surrender your heart and life to Him! It's the ABC's. **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God's Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life & being His fully devoted follower!
- ✓ Be willing to share what you learn with others that you come in contact with – don't just get the Word in you, but also get it out of you!!
- ✓ Find specific application this week to what you have heard and experienced –. Where is it in your life that you need to act on what God has told you to do or a direction He has given you to walk? Will you trust Him and depend on Him or will doubt and walk away from His calling?

## **ROUTE 66**

“Numbers: The Wandering”

*Numbers 13-14*

January 29, 2012 AM Service

We have seen the Lord deliver the Israelites from Egypt and they are now on their way to the Promise Land. We see the name of this book come from the two counts of the people taken – we call it a census today that were taken of the men that were able to fight. (Was not from the whole nation) We see the 1<sup>st</sup> count from the old generation which numbered 603,550 fighting men and the 2<sup>nd</sup> count from the new generation which was 601,730 fighting men. We see in Numbers many things – the disobedience and disbelief, we see God’s forgiveness of sin and yet the consequences of sin. We see the promise of God right before them but the doubt that they couldn’t take it like He said. Today, we see the same thing with believers who have been delivered from Egypt by the blood of the Lamb, but have not entered into their inheritance in Christ – the promise land. The promise land in Canaan was not a picture of heaven but instead a picture of life, both battle and blessings. Many are saved, but they have failed to fulfill God’s purpose for their lives. Are you living as a follower of Christ – believing His promises are true and walking in that promise everyday or are you wandering around and even thinking that you are ok, but you are not truly living that abundant life that He promised. You are not growing, but simply surviving. That is what Israel did, so that after the wandering was over, there were less people – and that is exactly what can happen to a church that fails to step out in faith – it begins to decline spiritually, numerically, and materially. May God help us to see where they went wrong, learn from their mistakes (like we talked about it 2 Sunday Night ago in 1 Corinthians 10) and be sure that we don’t go stay in the wilderness. May we believe God and walk in faith and His promises!!

### **The Old Generation Set Aside (1-20)**

The Lord continues to prepare His people to go into the Promise Land God now got them ready to move – and by the way we are reminded that God is a God of order and not chaos – He had a specific plan and a specific way for the people to travel and there was some great symbolism

found in it! They had been at Mt. Sinai for around a here and now for the first time God was going to get them ready to go – the journey towards the Promise land would begin.

✓ **Directions For the People (1-12)**

Again we see God's direction and guidance as He leads them out and towards the Promise Land. Where God leads He will provide!

**ILLUS: Map 1**

▪ **Their Count**

Only the fighting men were counted and not all men were counted here either. They are numbered by their tribes plus the Levities. So we see the nation number easily as 2-3 million people without any problem and possibly even more! A huge group of people.

▪ **Their Camp**

**ILLUS: Map 2**

Notice how they were arranged when they marched and when they camped. It was very specific - everyone knew where to go and in what place they were supposed to be. Particularly we notice the placing of the Tribe of Judah and I also notice Benjamin.

▪ **Their Cleansing & Consecration**

We again see the Lord giving more instructions, more specific details to the people and specific instructions to the Levites. There was instruction given about vows, offerings, and other things.

▪ **Their Complaining & Criticizing**

We notice once again and some people call this the book of murmurings because they constantly it seemed complained. Not only that they criticized Moses, even his own brother and sister. They continually tried the patience of God – thankfully as He was with them, He is with us – that as God said about Himself in [Exodus 33:6-7](#) We will see how true this would be next!

How quick are we to complain to the Lord and to others and how quick are we to criticize those in leadership? Great questions to ask!!

✓ **Disobedience of the People (13-19)**

We will park here for the bulk of the message for here we find the cause for the name of the book. God has now led them to the edge of the Promise Land to Kadesh Barnea and there has to be such a sense of

excitement and anticipation! Don't think it was God's plan for them to send out spies, but He allowed it – we see in [Deuteronomy 1:19-ff](#) Moses recounts the event and says the people approached him and it seemed good to him – yet not so sure it was necessary – from a military point of view sure – but from trusting God – no way. They wanted to be really sure so they sent the spies to see if it was what God had said! We see a major turning point in their history – but as we have seen so far, remember that the Lord is in control and He knew this is what they would do and He already had a plan in place! God was still in control! They pick 12 spies – one from each tribe – and we meet two important people (in fact the only 2 he would see the Promise Land that were adults!) Notice too – Caleb was from the tribe of Judah and Joshua from Benjamin – (2 tribes that would make up the Southern Kingdom) Also, Judah – line of Jesus – and Benjamin – Saul, and later Saul/Paul. [Read 13:25-29](#)

- **Their Doubt** – *It Was Unfounded* – God had already promised them the land – it was theirs! Yet doubt – and let me clarify here – doubt is ok to a point, asking God why – but to live and walk in doubt is a direct assault on the character of God! At the end of the day, we must have faith and believe. God didn't condemn them for having doubts, but instead letting those doubts guide their decisions!!
- **The Spies Description** *It Was Different*      [13:30-33](#)
  - Disbelief & Distrust      They Discouraged
  - Dependence      They Encouraged      It wasn't they didn't see the same things, they just saw them different glasses and they were rose colored glasses either. They saw them as what God could do and not what they couldn't do! There is a huge difference!
- **Their Decision** – *It Was Costly* [4:1-10](#) (Vs 2 - how true that would become!) Moses and Aaron, Caleb and Joshua beg them to do the right thing!!
- **Their Defense** – *It Was Moses*      [14:11-19](#)      He stands in the gap for his people again and again! What a leader! For a second time. God offered to make a new nation out of Moses and completely destroy the Jewish people, but Moses refused. It's the mark of great and godly leaders that they think only of the good of their people and not

their own personal gain. In fact, Moses was willing to die for the nation rather than let God destroy it (Ex 32:32; see Rom 9:1-3).

*His Argument* Glory of God, Covenant of God, Character of God, & Forgiveness of God

- **Their Discipline** – *It Was Severe* 14:20-38 They would wander and all eventually die except for those under the age of 20 and that is exactly what would happen. God forgave but consequences still came. Forgiveness does not equal no consequences.
- **Their Disaster** – *It Was Foolish* 14:39-45 Instead of accepting God's discipline, they decided to take matters into their hands which of course proved to be a huge disaster!
- **Their Destruction & Death** – *It Happened* Moses would lead the people on the world's largest and longest funeral march in history and they watched the people die off – we are talking hundreds of thousands of people!

### **Several Thoughts Here:**

**The safest place to be is in the center of God's will for your life!** There is no better place to be! It is where the abundant life is experienced.

Doesn't mean everything is always perfect but you know you are right where He wants you to be. Are you there right now? **Quote: The will of God will never lead us where the grace of God can't provide for us or the power of God protect us.**

**Quote: From Weirsbe** "The will of God is the expression of the love of God for His people, for His plans come from His heart (Ps 33:11). God's will isn't punishment, it's nourishment (John 4:31-34); not painful chains that shackle us (Ps 2:3), but loving cords that tie us to God's heart so He can lead us in the right way (Hos 11:4). Those who rebel against God's will are denying His wisdom, questioning His love, and tempting the Lord to discipline them. Sometimes God has to put a "bit and bridle" on rebels in order to control them (Ps 32:8-9), and that's not enjoyable.

God wants us to know His will (Acts 22:14), understand His will (Eph 5:17), delight in His will (Ps 40:8), and obey His will from the heart (Eph 6:6). As we yield to the Lord, trust Him, and obey Him, we "prove by experience" what the will of God is (Rom 12:1-2). The Spirit of God opens up the Word of God to us and helps us discern what God wants us to do.

But it's important that we are willing to obey, or He won't teach us what we need to know (John 7:17).”

**God does not lead us to do what we can do on our own.** If we could do everything ourselves, why do we need Him? God wants us to depend and trust upon Him and many times He will take us to impossible places and then through them only by His grace and His Hand!!

**Our God is a God of forgiveness but there are still consequences** – but even then He will help us walk through those. We don't need to try God!

### **The New Generation Set Apart (20-36)**

The Lord Perseveres With the People

- ✓ **Recalling the Past** This is where we have been, let us not return there again – let us learn the lessons before us – by the way, they were reminded of it every day as they watched the people die!
- ✓ **Redeeming the Present** *Their Deliverance & God's Faithfulness* And we see by the way a wonderful picture and one that Jesus refers to in his conversation with Nicodemus – a foreshadowing of what was to come – Numbers 21:1-9 God provided a way – just look towards it!!
- ✓ **Reviewing the Future** – God prepares them by dividing up the land and they were drawing ever closer to the day when they would walk into the Promise Land! Had to be some long years of waiting – but we must learn from our past, live in the present while always keeping our eyes on the future – and that future is Christ Jesus our Lord!

What part of the generation will we be remembered for? Will we be the generation that God sets aside or the one that He is able to Set Apart and use for His glory and conquer the promise land? May we be as we looked at last week in [Psalm 24:6](#) “This is the generation of those who seek Him”