

WILDERNESS LESSONS # 10

November 29, 2015

Camp # 14 Rithmah

Nu 33:18 They journeyed from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah (Dt 1:19)

A. Three names are given to this place

1. Nu 33:18 They journeyed from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.
2. Nu 32:8 "This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land.
3. Nu 12:16 ... the people moved out from Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

B. Definitions Of:

1. **Rithmah** = Binding;

2. **Kadesh** = consecrated; sanctified; apartness; , (Nu 13:26)
or **Kadesh-barnea** = (holy) desert of wandering. (Nu 32:8; Dt 1:2)

Kadesh Barnea is the place where:

Korah's rebellion against Moses (Nu 16:1-3).

Moses disqualifies himself from entering Canaan (Nu 20:1-13; 27:14; Dt 32:51).

The burial place of Miriam (Moses' sister) (Nu 20:1).

The camp where Moses sends out the 12 spies (Nu 13:1-33).

The place where Edom refused Israel access to the Promised Land (Nu 20:14-21).

3. **Definition of Paran** = Beauty; Place of caverns

Paran is the place where:

Hagar and Ishmael settle after Abraham sends them away (Gen 21:21).

The cloud (of glory) rested after they leave Sinai (Nu 10:12).

The 14th camp in Israel's journey through the wilderness (Nu 12:16).

Moses sends out the 12 spies into Canaan (Nu 13:1-3);
They return to give a bad report (Nu 13:26).

David finds refuge from Saul (1Sa 25:1-4).

Mount Paran is a (prophetic) poetic parallel to Mount Sinai ...
as the place of revealing His glory and power (Hab 3:3-6).
as the place of God's love and power in His saints (Dt 33:2-3);

C. Events (Nu 12:16 - 14:45)

1. God commands Moses to send spies (Nu 13:1-2).

Nu 13:1-2 Then the LORD spoke to Moses saying, 2 "Send out for yourself men so that they may spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give to the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers' tribes, every one a leader among them."

The people initiate searching out the land of Canaan (Dt 1:22-25).

You have come ... the LORD is about to give us the land ... go up and take possession,
Dt 1:20-21 "I said to you, 'You have come to the hill country of the Amorites which the LORD our God is about to give us. See, the LORD your God has placed the land before you; go up, take possession, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has spoken to you. Do not fear or be dismayed.'

The people approached Moses to send the spies.

Dt 1:22 "Then all of you approached me and said, 'Let us send men before us, that they may search out the land for us, and bring back to us word of the way by which we should go up and the cities which we shall enter.'

Moses agrees

Dt 1:23 "The thing pleased me and I took twelve of your men, one man for each tribe.

2. Names of the leaders chosen to spy out the land (Nu 13:3-16).

One leader from each tribe.

3. Their commission (Nu 13:17-20).

a. See what the land is like:

Is it good or bad?

Is it fat or lean?

Are there trees in it or not?

b. See where they live and what their places of habitation are like:

Are they like open camps or with fortifications?

c. See what the people are like:

Are they strong or weak?

How many are they - few or many?

d. Bring back samples of the crops grown in the land

4. Their successful 40 day journey (Nu 13:21-26).

They discover the sons of Anak in Hebron (Nu 13:22).

They collect a branch of grapes, carried by two men, pomegranates and figs (Nu 13:23, 27).

"Land of milk and honey," (Nu 13:27).

This is a slogan of redemption; expressing the goodness and faithfulness of God in a land of plenty. (Nu 14:8; 16:13-14; Ex 3:8,17; 13:5; 33:3; Lev 20:24; Dt. 6:3; 11:9; 26:9,15; 27:3; 31:20; Jos 5:6; Jer 11:5; 32:22; Ezk 20:6,15)

5. The spies report (Nu 13:26-33).

a. The report (word) **to Moses and Aaron** and **to all the congregation** (Nu 13:26).

b. The facts:

The fruit = they showed them the fruit of the land; it certainly does flow with milk and honey,

The people = are strong; descendants of Anak are there; Amalek is living in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites & Amorites live in the hill country, the Canaanites live by the Jordan.

The cities = are fortified and very large;

c. Spies unbelief = "Nevertheless" and "moreover" (Nu 13:28)

People's response? Cry all night.

d. Spies bad, evil report (Nu 13:31-33) ...saying, "

Instead of reporting the blessings of the land, the ten spies emphasized the difficulties, giving an "evil report".

The land is a land that devours its inhabitants; all the people whom we saw in it are men of great size. "There also we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak are part of the Nephilim); and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

e. Comparisons of unbelief and faith of the spies (Nu 13:27-33; 14:7-9):

Unbelief - 10 spies

Faith - 2 spies

"Nevertheless," and "moreover"

Unbelief always sees the obstacles

Faith always sees the opportunities

They did not see God

They saw God with them

Their eyes were on the obstacles

Their eyes are on the opportunities

The people were strong

God is strong - "He will bring us in"

The cities were walled up

"Their protection - removed from them"

The land devours its inhabitants

"They will be our prey"

Giants were in the land

"The Lord is with us"

Saw themselves as grasshoppers

"We shall overcome it"

became - grasshoppers in our own sight

"if God is pleased with us, He will ..."

Unbelief speaks - "We are not able!"

Faith confesses - "We are well able!"

Unbelief has to investigate everything (Dt 1:22-25).

Faith takes God at His word and needs no other evidence (Heb. 11:1).

Unbelief magnifies your own weakness and concludes that you are not able.

Faith sees God's greatness and concludes that He is able to do what He promises.

f. Application for our lives:

This refusal to enter the land is a type of the believer's refusal to claim his or her inheritance in Christ (Heb 3-4). Instead of entering into full rest in Christ, and trusting Him for every need, doubting Christians see the problems and obstacles, and wander around restlessly, blind to their blessings. (from Wiersbe)

6. The people are terrified and rebel (Nu 14:1-4, 10).

a. they weep all night

b. they grumbled against Moses, Aaron, and the LORD saying:

“Would that we had died in the land of Egypt!

Or would that we had died in this wilderness! (Ex 14:11; 16:3; Nu 14:2; 20:4; 21:5)

“Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword?

Our wives and our little ones will become plunder;

would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?” (Nu 14:3; Ac 7:39)

“Let us appoint a leader and return to Egypt.” (Nu 14:4)

c. They want to stone Joshua and Caleb when they try to encourage them - (Nu 14:10).

7. Response of the leaders - Moses, Aaron, Caleb and Joshua (Nu 14:5-9).

a. Moses and Aaron fell on their faces (Nu 14:4).

b. Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes and try to encourage them (Nu 14:6-9).

c. Caleb's statement of faith - (Nu 13:30)

1) “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it.”

Caleb was a man of faith who didn't worry about the size of the problem because he trusted in a great God.

The important question in life is not, “How big is the problem?” or “How big am I?”

The major question is, “How big is my God?”

Caleb and Joshua saw the Canaanites as grasshoppers (Isa. 40:22), but the unbelieving spies were not looking at the situation from God's point of view.

When you walk by faith, the future is your friend, and every enemy is defeated.

2) The land ... is an exceedingly good land. (Nu 14:7; Dt 1:25; 8:7).

3) If the LORD is pleased with us, He will bring us into this land and give it to us.
(Ex 12:25; 20:12; Dt 1:25; 4:21,40; 5:16,31; 6:23; 11:17,31; 12:1,10; 15:4; 16:20; 17:14;
19:10,14; 21:23; 26:1; 27:2,3; 28:8; 32:49,52; Jos 1:2, 11)

4) Do not rebel against the LORD;

5) and do not fear the people of the land, (Nu 14:9; Dt 1:29; 3:22; 7:18,21; 31:6).

6) The people of the land will be our prey (bread, food).

7) Their protection has been removed from them,
protection = literally "shadow"; a metaphor highly expressive of protection and support in
the sultry eastern countries (Ps 91:1; 121:5; Isa 30:2-3; 32:2).

8) the LORD is with us (Nu 14:8-9; Ex 33:15-16; Dt 29:15; 1Ki 8:57; 2Chr 32:7-8 Ps 46:7,11).

8. The Lord's response (Nu 14:10-12)

Then the glory of the LORD appeared in the tent of meeting

The LORD said to Moses, "I will smite and dispossess them, and I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they."

9. The intercession of Moses (Nu 14:13-19). Moses said to the LORD, ...

Concerning God's reputation

... then the nations will say, the LORD wasn't able to do that which He promised.

Reminds the Lord of His Word:

the land which He promised them by oath
just as You have declared

Reminds the Lord Who He is (His nature of character):

The LORD is slow to anger;

The LORD is abundant in lovingkindness;

You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

He will by no means clear the guilty, visiting iniquity to generations.

Request of Moses - I pray:

let the power of the Lord be great

Pardon, , the iniquity of this people

10. The Lord forgives the people and blesses Caleb and Joshua (Nu 14:20-24).

Forgiven = "I have pardoned them according to your word;" (Nu 14:20)

Consequences = "shall not see the land." (Nu 14:20-23; Dt 1:35-40)).

They will die in the wilderness (Nu 14:35; 26:65; Jos 5:4).

Your corpses will fall in the wilderness (Nu 14:29, 32-33; Heb 3:17)

They were laid low in the wilderness (1Cor 10:5)

Why did they die in the wilderness?

They did not believe in, or trust the Lord (Nu 14:11; 20:12; Dt 1:32; 9:23; Ps 78:32).

They have seen My glory and the ten signs performed in Egypt;

" " " " " and (performed in) in the wilderness.

They have put Me to the test ... (Nu 14:22; Ex 17:7; Ps 78:18,41,56; 106:14; Heb 3:8).

" " " " " " " " 10 times.

(1) At the Red Sea - Pursued by the armies of Pharaoh, the people complained that they would rather have remained slaves in Egypt (Ex 14:11-12).

(2) At Marah they complain of the bitter, undrinkable water (Ex 15:23-24).

(3) In the wilderness of sin - Lacking food, the people complained that they would rather have died in Egypt (Ex 16:1-3).

(4) At Rephidim - Lacking water, the people complained that Moses had brought them out of Egypt and into the wilderness to die (Ex 17:1-3).

(5) At Sinai - The people become impatient at the delay of Moses, Aaron makes a golden calf to worship, as they make plans to return to Egypt (Ex 32:1-6).

(6) At Kibroth Hattaavah they complain of their adversity and some are consumed by fire; the place is renamed Taberah (Nu 11:1-3).

(7) At Kibroth Hattaavah - Weary of manna, the "mixed multitude" (foreigners) among the Israelites complained that they had better food in Egypt (Nu 11:4-9).

(8) At Kibroth Hattaavah - Some killed by a plague as they ate the quail (Nu 11:31-34).

(9) At Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses (Nu 11:1-15).

(10) At Kadesh - Hearing the spies report, the people complained that they would rather have died in Egypt (Nu 13:27-33).

They have not listen to My voice

(Nu 14:22; Ex 23:21-22; Dt 4:30; Jdg 2:20; 1Ki 20:36; Ps 95:7; Heb 3:7, 15; 4:7).

Exception = Caleb (and Joshua);

"he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it." ((Nu 14:24).

Promise = "as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD." (Nu 14:21).

"as I live ..." Used 24 X in OT (Nu 14:21,28; Dt 32:40; Ps 63:4; Isa 49:18; Jer 22:24; 46:18; Ezk 5:11,14:16,18,20; 16:48; 17:16,19; 18:3; 20:3,31,33; 33:11,27; 34:8; 35:6,11; Zep 2:9)

"the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord"

(Ps 57:5,11; 72:19; 108:5; Isa 6:3; 11:9; 40:5; Hab 2:14; 3:3)

11. The 10 spies die (immediately) by a plague before the Lord (Nu 14:36-38).

12. People act in presumption - try to take the land & are defeated (Nu 14:40-45; Dt 1:41-46).

Dt 1:41-46 "Then you said to me, 'We have sinned against the LORD; we will indeed go up and fight, just as the LORD our God commanded us.' And every man of you girded on his weapons of war, and regarded it as easy to go up into the hill country. 42 "And the LORD said to me, 'Say to them, "Do not go up nor fight, for I am not among you; otherwise you will be defeated before your enemies.'" 43 "So I spoke to you, but you would not listen. Instead you rebelled against the command of the LORD, and acted presumptuously and went up into the hill country. 44 "The Amorites who lived in that hill country came out against you and chased you as bees do, and crushed you from Seir to Hormah. 45 "Then you returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD did not listen to your voice nor give ear to you. 46 "So you remained in Kadesh many days, the days that you spent there.

Presumption:

Definition = A form of arrogance and self-confidence, which makes overconfident assumptions concerning one's importance and rights.

Sin of presumption (Dt 18:20; Ro 2:3-4; Gen 11:1-4; Nu 14:40-45; Lk 12:16-21)

Antidote for presumption = humility (Mic 6:8; Lk 14:10; 22:26; Ro 12:3; Jas 4:10; 1Pt 5:5).

References used in this study:

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