

## WILDERNESS WANDERING

### 1) Review the prophecies

- a) **Gen 3:15** – Enmity between the woman’s seed and serpent’s seed – mortal wound vs. temporary wound
- b) **Gen 12:1-3** – Land, nation, seed promise. Repeated to Isaac (Gen 26:3-5) & Jacob (Gen 28:13-15)
- c) The “nation” promise was the first of the three to be fulfilled
  - i) To be a holy nation and a kingdom of priests was conditional on their obedience – **Ex 19:3-6**
  - ii) Though rescued from Egypt, this bible period makes it clear that “Egypt” still dwelled in them

### 2) Faithlessness of Israel

- a) Moses had been on Mt. Sinai only 40 days before the Israelites disobeyed God (Ex 32:1-6)
  - i) By reducing God’s image to a golden calf, they disobeyed the 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment (Ex 20:4-6)
  - ii) God intends to destroy Israel and begin a new nation from Moses; Moses intercedes (Ex 32:7-14)
  - iii) Moses rebukes and punishes the Israelites responsible; God smites them further (Ex 32:15-35)
- b) After 11 months, 5 days at Mt. Sinai, God leads Israel to Canaan to give them the land (Num 10:29-34)
  - i) 12 men are sent to spy out Canaan, one per tribe. Among them are Joshua and Caleb (Num 13:1-3)
  - ii) Joshua & Caleb bring back good news; the other 10 claim they can’t take the land (Num 13:25-33)
  - iii) The 10 faithless spies discouraged Israel who then try to stone Moses and Aaron (Num 14:1-10a)
  - iv) God intends to destroy Israel and begin a new nation from Moses; Moses intercedes (Num 14:11-19)
  - v) God punishes Israel for grumbling and complaining against Him 10 times (Num 14:22)
  - vi) Those 20 yrs and older will die wandering the wilderness over 40 years (Num 14:29,34)
  - vii) The 10 times Israel complained:
    - (1) Ex 5:20-21 – Having to make bricks with no straw
    - (2) Ex 14:10-12 – Complaint at the Red Sea
    - (3) Ex 15:24 – The bitter water of Marah
    - (4) Ex 16:2-3 – Hunger in the wilderness: manna
    - (5) Ex 16:20-27 – Disobedience with the manna
    - (6) Ex 17:2-3 – No water in Rephidim
    - (7) Ex 32:1-4 – The golden calf
    - (8) Num 11:1 – More grumbling that rekindles the Lord’s fire
    - (9) Num 11:4-5 – The “need” of better meat to eat
    - (10) Num 13:26–14:3 – The 10 spies bring back a bad report

### 3) 40 years of wandering in the wilderness (most stories occur either at the beginning or end of the 40 years)

- a) The Rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Num 16)
  - i) They accuse Moses and Aaron claiming of overexerting their authority (Num 16:1-3)
  - ii) God opens the Earth and swallows them, confirming Moses & Aaron’s leadership (Num 16:23-35)
  - iii) Israel is angry with Moses and Aaron so the Lord sent a plague. 14,700 die (Num 16:41-50)
  - iv) God confirms his choice of Aaron as high priest through the budding of his rod (Num 17:1-7)
- b) In the 40<sup>th</sup> year of their wandering, several things of note occur before they arrive at the plains of Moab
  - i) Moses dishonors God before the people by disobeying His command (Num 20:2-11)
  - ii) God punishes Moses by not allowing him to enter Canaan’s land (Num 20:12-13)
  - iii) Aaron dies and is mourned for 30 days. His son Eleazar is appointed High Priest. (Num 20:22-29)
  - iv) Several kings try to prevent Israel from progressing to Canaan’s land:
    - (1) Edom blocks the path through Mt. Seir. Israel forbidden to fight (Num 20:14-21; Deut 2:1-8)

- (2) They are not allowed to attack Moab or Ammon for lot's sake (Deut 2:9,19)
- (3) Arad, king of Canaan, kidnaps some Israelites. Israel destroys them (Num 21:1-3)
- (4) Sihon, king of the Amorites, refuses passage. Israel defeats him, takes his cities (Num 21:21-25)
- (5) Og, king of Bashan, attacks Israel. Israel destroys them (Num 21:33-35)

4) Plains of Moab (occur in last year of Israel's wandering, latter parts of Numbers and all of Deuteronomy)

- a) Balak, king of Moab, hires a prophet named Balaam to curse Israel (Num 22:1-6)
  - i) No matter what Balak offered Balaam, God would not allow Balaam to curse Israel (Num 22:18)
  - ii) Each curse Balak asked for turned into a blessing (Num 23:11, 25, 24:10)
  - iii) One of the blessings from Balaam pointed to the promised "seed" – **Num 24:17-19**
  - iv) Balaam later advised Midianite women to seduce Israel and bring a curse from God (Num 25, 31:16)
  - v) Balaam is eventually killed for not being satisfied with whom God blesses (Josh 13:22)
- b) Reuben and Gad ask to dwell in the recently conquered land east of the Jordan (Num 32:1-5)
  - i) Moses requires them first to help their brothers inherit their land (Num 32:6-15)
  - ii) Reuben and Gad agrees to help so as not to be a discouragement to their brothers (Num 32:16-24)
- c) Summary of Deuteronomy – pep talk by Moses to the new generation of Israelites
  - i) Reminds the new generation of the consequences of the disobedience of their fathers (Deut 1 – 4)
  - ii) The phrase "be careful" repeated all throughout the book (Deut 4:15; 5:1; 6:25; 8:1; 11:22)
  - iii) The law is repeated to this new generation (Deut 5)
  - iv) God explains why He did some of the things He did (Deut 8:1-3)
  - v) Details about the seed promise: He will arise from the people, a prophet like Moses – **Deut 18:15-19**
  - vi) Blessings & Curses (Deut 27 – 28)
    - (1) Refer back Deut 28 in future studies to show the fulfillment of these promises
  - vii) The covenant is renewed (Deut 29 – 30)
  - viii) Joshua is commissioned as Moses' replacement (Deut 31:1-23)
  - ix) Moses is allowed to see the land from Mt. Pisgah, but not go in it (Deut 34:1-4)
  - x) Moses dies on Mt. Pisgah and God buries him (Deut 34:5-8)