### Numbers

## Chapter 14

1Well at that, the whole gathering started wailing and crying, and this went on throughout the night! 2Then all the children of IsraEl started grumbling against Moses and Aaron, for they came to them and said:  
  
 3‘We would rather have died in the land of Egypt than in this desert!  
  
 ‘Why is Jehovah bringing us to this land… Just to be killed in war and to have our women and children serve as their prey?  
  
 ‘It would be better for us to return to Egypt!’  
  
4Then they started saying to each other:  
  
 ‘Let’s appoint [someone else] as our ruler who’ll take us back to Egypt!’  
  
5So Moses and Aaron just fell to their faces before the entire gathering of the children of IsraEl... 6But then, JoShua (son of NaWeh) and Caleb (son of JePhonNe), who were among those who’d spied in the land, started ripping their clothes, 7and they said to the gathering of the children of IsraEl:  
  
 ‘The land that we surveyed is really very good!  
  
 8‘And if Jehovah has chosen us, won’t He take us into this land and give it to us… Into this land that flows with milk and honey?  
  
 9‘Don’t leave Jehovah, and don’t be afraid of the people in that land, because they’re just meat for us!  
  
 ‘Since Jehovah is with us, their time has ended! So, don’t be afraid!’  
  
10But at that, all the people started throwing rocks at them!  
  
[Then suddenly], the glory of Jehovah appeared in the cloud over the Tent of Proofs before all the children of IsraEl!  
  
11And the Lord said to Moses:  
  
 ‘How much longer will these people continue to anger Me, and how much longer will they refuse to believe Me after all the signs that I’ve sent to them?  
  
 12‘So now, I’m going to strike them and kill them all!  
  
 ‘Yes, I’ll destroy them and then I’ll make a great nation of you and of your father’s house… One that’ll be much greater than this!’  
  
13However, Moses replied:  
  
 ‘But then the Egyptians would hear about this!  
  
 ‘Because You used Your power to bring these people out from among them, 14and the people who live in that land have heard that You’re our Lord, that You’re with these people, that You, O Jehovah, have been seen face-to-face, that Your cloud rests upon them, and You lead them each day in a column of clouds and by a column of fire all night long…  
  
 15‘If You destroy this whole nation, then all the nations that have heard of Your Name will say:  
  
 16‘Because Jehovah couldn’t bring His people into the land that He swore to give them, He [killed] them all in the desert!’  
  
 17‘So, O Lord, show Your power to them instead… And may this thing that You’ve said prove to be true:  
  
 18‘Jehovah is patient, merciful, and true. He removes mistakes, errors, and sins... He will never acquit the guilty, but He will bring the sins of the fathers upon their children for three or four generations’.  
  
 19‘Therefore, in Your great mercy, forgive these people for their sins and show them the same favor [that You’ve shown] them [since You led them out of] Egypt!’  
  
20Then the Lord replied to Moses:  
  
 ‘I’ll be [patient] with them as you’ve requested.  
  
 21‘For, as I live and as My Name is living; the glory of Jehovah must fill the whole earth, 22since everyone has seen My glory through all the signs that I gave in Egypt and in the desert.  
  
 ‘But, this is the 10th time that [IsraEl] has tested Me and refused to listen to My voice!  
  
 23‘Therefore, they will not see the land that I promised to their fathers. Rather, I’ll give it to their children who are with Me here… Those who are inexperienced and don’t yet know good from bad.  
  
 ‘I’m going to give the land to them… But, those who angered Me will never see it! 24My servant Caleb [will see it], because he had a different spirit and he followed Me... I’ll bring him into the land that he traveled through, and his offspring will inherit it. 25But until then, the AmaLechites and CanaAnites will [continue to] live in this valley.  
  
 ‘So tomorrow [you must] turn around and return to the desert by way of the Red Sea!’  
  
  
26And thereafter, the Lord spoke to both Moses and Aaron and said:  
  
 27‘How much longer will this gathering remain wicked?  
  
 ‘I’ve heard the grumbling against Me coming from the children of IsraEl as well as all their complaints about you.  
  
 28‘So, tell them that Jehovah said this:  
  
 ‘As I live; whatever I’ve heard you say is exactly what I’m going to do to you...  
  
 29‘Your bodies will fall in this desert, and all those who were reviewed and counted from 20 years old and up – all that grumbled against Me – 30will never enter the land that I stretched out My hand to give to you, except for Caleb son of JePhonNe), and JoShua son of NaWeh.  
  
 31‘Then I’ll bring your little ones (whom you’ve said would serve as prey) into the land, and they’ll inherit what you’ve rejected, 32while your bodies will fall in this desert!  
  
 33‘So your sons must be fed in this desert for 40 years, and they must carry the weight of your infidelity, as your bodies rot in the desert. 34For each day that was spent spying in that land – 40 days – you must bear your sins a day for a year – for 40 years – and you’ll get to know My rage.  
  
 35‘Now, I, Jehovah have spoken, and that’s what I’ll do to this evil gathering that has raised itself against Me… You will be totally destroyed and die here in this desert!’  
  
  
36Then, all the men whom Moses sent to spy in the land and who then returned and grumbled before the group and said evil things about the land 37were struck with a plague from Jehovah and they all died.  
  
38So, among the men who served as spies in the land, only JoShua (son of NaWeh) and Caleb (son of JePhonNe) survived!  
  
  
39Well after that, Moses explained all these things to the children of IsraEl, and the people became very depressed.  
  
40Then early the next morning, [the people] climbed to the top of a hill and said:  
  
 ‘{Look!} We have sinned!  
  
 ‘So, those of us who are left must travel to the place where Jehovah told us to go!’  
  
41But Moses asked them:  
  
 ‘Why didn’t you just obey the words of Jehovah and prosper?  
  
 42‘However, now you can’t [enter the land], because Jehovah isn’t with you, and you’ll [be cut down] before your enemies! 43The AmaLechites and the CanaAnites that are standing there before you will cut you down with their swords, because you disobeyed Jehovah and turned aside.  
  
 ‘So, the Lord won’t be there among you!’  
  
44Well, they went up to the top of the mountain and tried to force their way [into the land] anyhow… But the Chest of Jehovah’s Sacred Agreement and Moses never left the camp.  
  
45As a result, the AmaLechites and the CanaAnites who lived on the mountain attacked them, drove them away, and destroyed them all the way to [Mount] Herman; and they [had to] run back to their camp.