



Bi-115, The Pentateuch Numbers Part 2

April 16, 2015

Numbers, 10:11-21:35

A. The failure of the first generation
(10:11-14:45)

B. The thirty eight (almost) silent years
(15-19)

C. Failures of the second generation
(20-21)

Numbers 10:11-14:45

A. The Failure of the 1st generation (10:11-14:45)

1. Grumbling in the wilderness (10:11-12:16)
2. Unbelief at Kadesh (13-14)

Numbers 15-19

B. The thirty eight (almost) silent years (15-19)

1. Various Laws (15)
2. The revolt of Israelite leaders (16-17)
3. Levite Responsibilities (18)
4. The red heifer and other laws (19)

Numbers 20-21

C. Failures of the second generation (20-21)

1. The Sin of Moses & Aaron (20:1-13)
2. Edom refuses passage for Israel (20:14-21)
3. The death of Aaron (20:22-29)
4. The fiery snake (21:1-9)
5. Victories over the Transjordan Kingdoms (21:10-35)

The threefold account of moral failure in Numbers 10-21

| The First Generation | Thirty eight silent years | The Second Generation |
|--|---|--|
| Grumbling of the people (11:4-10) | | |
| Grumbling of Moses, Miriam and Aaron (11:11-15; 12:1-2) | Revolt of Levite and other leading families (16:12-40) | The Sin of Moses and Aaron (20) |
| The unbelief of the people (14:1-4) | Revolt of the people (16:41-50) | Grumbling of the people (21) |
| Moses prays for the people (14:13-19) | Aaron stops the plague against the people with the incense censer (16:46-50) | Moses prays for people and makes the fiery snake on a pole (21:7-9) |

God met the grumbling with judgement / The People, Moses, Aaron & Miriam

- The people wanted meat
- Moses wanted help
- The rūah (Spirit) on Moses is distributed on 70
- The rūah (Spirit) brings quail from the sea . . . And it came and it came . . .

Aaron & Miriam grumble about Moses
God Confronts and judges. (12:6-8)

The Reports of the scouts & The Response of the people

| | The "Player" | The "Action" | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 13:26-29 | The Twelve Scouts | The "Factual" Report | The land is good and the people are strong |
| 13:30 | Caleb (the Judah scout) | The "Faith" Response | Let's go into the land of promise |
| 13:31-33 | The ten scouts | The "Mythologized" Report | The people are the mythic warriors of old and the land eats people. |
| 14:1-4 | The People | The "Unfaith" Response | Let's go back to Egypt |

Paul references these narratives ...

1 Corinthians 10:6 (ESV) 'Now these things took place as examples for us, *that we might not desire evil* as they did.

1 Corinthians 10:11 (ESV) 'Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down *for our instruction*, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Romans 15:4 (ESV) 'For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures *we might have hope*.

Interpreting circumstances

(creative)- memory:
(re)define past

(creative)-expectation:
(re)define future

**Perceived Circumstance:
Temptation or Faith**

Interpreting circumstances in accord with the word of God

Faith-memory
Yahweh provided by powerful acts.

Faith-Expectation:
Yahweh will provide

**Perceived circumstance
by Faith**

Interpreting circumstances (like hunger , thirst, fortified cities) by distorting the word of God.

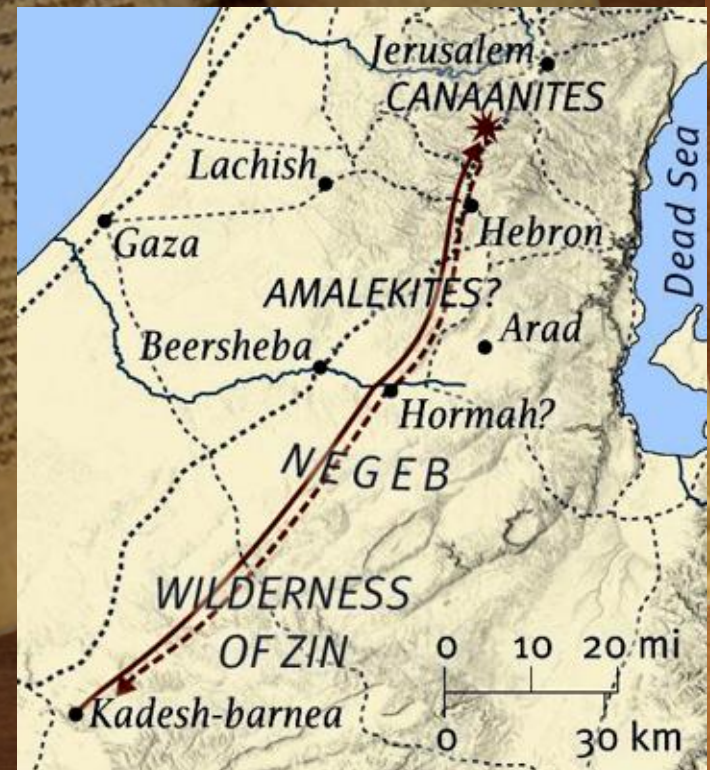
Creative-memory
Yahweh took us from the comforts of
Egypt

Creative-expectation:
We will die.

**Perceived Circumstance:
temptation**

A small group attempt to enter Canaan

- After God's judgement, a small group changed their mind, and without Moses, and without the Ark they moved into Canaan
- When they finally reached the hill country they were beaten back by the Amalekites and the Canaanites.
- They were chased back to Hormah which means "devoted to destruction".



Story and Law continued (10-21)

| 10:11-14:45 | 15 | 16-17 | 18-19 | 20-21 |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| The First generation in the wilderness | Requirements for offerings and other regulations | Rebellion against and reaffirmation of Aaron's leadership | Laws concerning Levites, priests, and the red heifer | The second generation in the wilderness |

Laws restated & narrative (15)

- Qualifications of Lev 1:1-7
 - Unintentional sin – of omission
forgivable, with sacrifice and offerings
 - High Handed sins
They shall be cut off from the people Num 15:30-31
- Narrative – example of High Handed Sin and its expected outcome.
- Instructions about wearing tassels – visual reminders of God's presence and your need to obey him.

High Handed - See Num 33:3 states that Israel marched out of Egypt with a HIGH Hand, defiant, with no remorse or repentance.

After 38 years of relative silence.
We see the 2nd generation ...

- They grumbled – Why had Moses brought them out of the good land (Egypt) and into the dessert to die ?
- Moses grumbled to God, why have you put this on me – Almost echoing Numbers 11
- God tells him to go and provide water by speaking to the rock
- Moses & Aaron go, and after talking down on all the people they struck the rock twice



And God declared...

- Moses (and Aaron), you have sinned –

You will **NOT** lead my people into the promised land.

*But, Just what was
the sin of Moses and Aaron?*

Proposed Sins

- Struck the Rock instead of speaking to it.
- Struck it twice, not once
- Spoke to the people instead of the rock
- Was angry with the people
- Called the people rebels
(*overstepping his present responsibilities*)
- Cast doubt on God's power
- May have actually doubted himself
- Spoke and performed like an ordinary magician
- Said, "must we bring" taking too much credit on himself and Aaron to bring the water.

What was the sin,

- Num 20, we see it happen ...
- Moses view:
 - Deut 1:37 ³⁷*Even with me the LORD was angry on your account* and said, 'You also shall not go in there.
 - Deut 3:26 ²⁶But *the LORD was angry with me because of you* and would not listen to me.
 - Deut 4:21 ²¹Furthermore, *the LORD was angry with me because of you, ...*

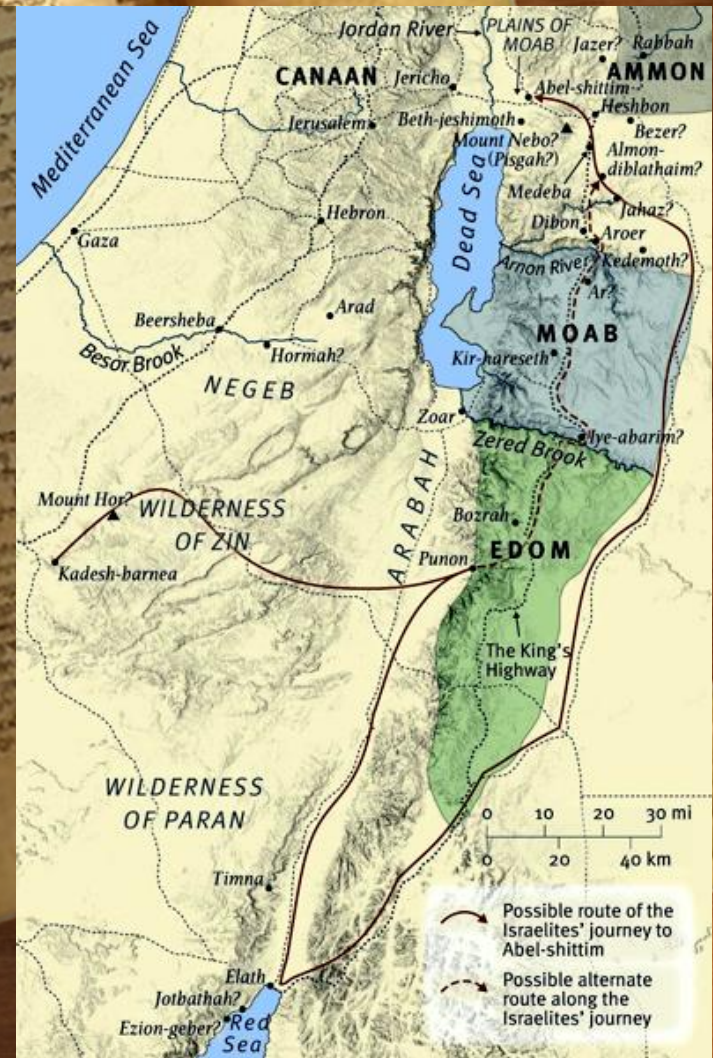
God's view of Moses Sin

Deuteronomy 32:48-51 (ESV)

- ⁴⁸ That very day the LORD spoke to Moses,
- ⁴⁹ "Go up this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, opposite Jericho, and view the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel for a possession.
- ⁵⁰ And die on the mountain which you go up, and be gathered to your people, as Aaron your brother died in Mount Hor and was gathered to his people,
- ⁵¹ *because you broke faith with me in the midst of the people of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, and because you did not treat me as holy in the midst of the people of Israel.*

The People move on

- Came to Edom, asking to travel the King's highway, Edom said NO!
- God told them to go around and to leave Edom alone.



Complaining Again (21:4-9)

- As they walk along the Red Sea, there is again grumbling about the food and water
- God sends serpents, who bit the people making them sick, and many were dieing.
- Moses prayed, and was told to put up the bronze snack on the pole that people were to look too.



Looking Forward ~ John 3:14, 16

- John 3:14 (ESV) ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
- John 3:16 (ESV) ¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

- As the Israelites headed North, they encountered & defeated the Amonites from the Arnon river to the Jabok river
- And then they started moving to the North into Bashan. Camping in the Plains of Moab, across from Jericho, the entrance to the promised land.

