

# Israel: Saved But Disobedient

Num 14:1-12; 20-38

## 1. Intro

1. Last week we saw Israel saved out of Egypt.
  1. Redeemed by the blood, buried in the waters of the Red Sea and resurrected on the other side.
  2. The old enemy (Egyptian army) was swept away.
  3. New life has been given to Israel.
  4. All done by the power of God.
  5. What will Israel do with the new life now?
2. Our Christian life can be compared to what has happened to Israel and how she dealt with her new life.

## 2. God's Intent

1. God's intent was for them to travel directly to the promised land
  1. A journey of about a month if going by the direct route. (up the coast)
  2. A few months by the southern route that they took to get to Kadesh-Barnea.
2. God had already promised them the land (13:2)
  1. His instructions were 1 from each tribe.
  2. On their return, 10 said it was impossible, 2 said no problem.
    1. They listened to the negative report. (13:30-33)
  3. They began to rely upon their own wisdom
3. This leads to a clash between being obedient to God or following their own desires.
  1. They then begin to complain again to Moses that we should return to Egypt. (14:2-3)
4. The result is God gives them what they want. (14:26-30)
  1. It is impossible to return to Egypt
  2. But not impossible to spend some time thinking about what they should have done.
    1. 40 years in the desert should do it.

## 3. Salvation vs Lordship

1. God intended them to see Him as fully Lord over all.
  1. Trust Me and follow Me.
  2. They did not.
2. As a result many never entered into the promised Land.
  1. The never entered into the fellowship that He wanted.
  2. He was present with them in the desert, but not in the fulness that He wanted.
3. This is an example for us to consider.
  1. Jesus came to do the work of the Father.
    1. To go to the Cross to purchase for us salvation.
  2. If we believe on the Lord Jesus we will be saved (Acts 16:31)
    1. Jesus will honour that decision.
4. The responsibility lies with us. How do we live out the salvation given to us?
  1. Are we headed in a straight line to the Promised land (Jesus)?
    1. No deviation to the right or left.
  2. Or do we get distracted with the things around us and begin to make side trips into areas that we ought not to go?

5. We are no different than the Israelites. We have salvation, but there is potential for us to do our own thing and so in disobedience we may wander in the desert.
  1. If we wander in the desert long enough we may have forgotten the deliverance that was procured for us.
    1. We may have wandered back into the old way of thinking. A way of thinking that should have been swept away.
  2. Jesus' presence is there but not in the fulness that He desires.

#### 4. The Loss

1. The loss to Israel was not receiving the rewards that came with entering the Promised Land.
2. The loss to us is not receiving the rewards that come with faithful obedience to Christ.
  1. Paul makes this very plain in I Cor 3:12-15
  2. We have the opportunity to build with a variety of materials.
    1. Some will stand the test, others will not.
  3. Some will have no reward at all, just their salvation.
3. We are this side of the sacrifice of Jesus.
  1. All believers will stand before the Judgment seat of Christ (II Cor 5:10)
  2. We will give an account.
    1. Was my acceptance of salvation all that I wanted?
    2. Did I ignore scripture that calls on us to be set apart?
    3. Did I acknowledge that Jesus is Lord and that I needed to serve Him to the best of my ability?

#### 5. The Grace

1. Even in Israel's rebellion, God continued to give grace.
  1. The young people entered into the land along with Joshua and Caleb (14:30)
  2. He still has a heart for Israel and will bring her back into relationship with Him.
  3. He sees her now as an adulterous wife (Ez 16; Hosea)
2. Even though we rebel God continues to give grace.
  1. His desire is for us to fully understand the relationship that He wants to have with us.

#### 6. Conclusion

1. Israel was saved out of Egypt. God had great plans for Her.
  1. Yet she rebelled against the things of God and as a result lost out on the blessings.
2. She squandered the potential that the new life gave her.
3. We have been saved from out of this world. Jesus has great plans for us.
  1. But I believe we have two choices:
    1. We can be obedient to Him and allow Him to be Lord of our lives.
    2. Or we can rebel, do our own thing and lose out on the blessings that would come our way??
4. Salvation will be there, but we will lose out on the rewards.