

## 1 The Struggles and Murmurs of the First Generation in the wilderness

- 1) The struggles of Israel's first generation: Dissatisfaction with food, and the giants of the Promised Land
- 2) A life marked by unbelief in God's promises, the sin of distrust, grumbling about their circumstances, and rebellion against God and their leaders.

Numbers 11

Numbers 12

Numbers 13

- 2) Judgment upon the 1<sup>st</sup> generation of Israel

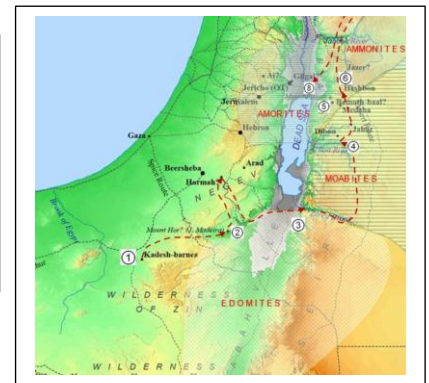
- The first generation wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and died out. They were unable to enter the Promised Land.

Only Joshua and Caleb, who had faith, were allowed to enter.

Moses was also unable to enter the Promised Land. Numbers 20

## 2. The journey of the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation

Num 21:4 They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup> they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"



- 1) Troubles : They had to change the route

The journey of the wilderness, no food and no water

- 2) Sin against God and leader

Question about their journey? Complaining about God's provision and grace.

In our daily lives, we sometimes encounter difficulties and find ourselves complaining, even when we think we have achieved victory through faith. When we give in to our fleshly desires, we lose sight of God's plan, His provision, and His grace; we begin to grumble and sin against the Lord. The first generation of Israelites faced God's judgment because of this sin and perished in the wilderness.

- 3) God's judgment upon the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation

21:6 Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died.

- 4). A Prayer of Repentance and Intercession to God

21:7 The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. **Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.**" So Moses prayed for the people.

- The people realized their sin for the first time and repented. We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you.
- The people asked the Lord for salvation from the judgment of their sins. **Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us**
- **Moses prayer for the people.**

## 4. Provision of the way of salvation 【Num 21 : 8】

1. “Make a snake and put it up on a pole;
2. anyone who is bitten can look at it and live

- 1) God prepared a way of salvation for the people who repented of their sins and sought deliverance from judgment. “The bronze serpent on the pole”
- 2) This is the way to receive salvation through faith.  
The Lord said, “Anyone who is bitten and looks at the bronze serpent on the pole will live.”

## 5. The way of Living by Faith

21:9 So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

- 1) They repent their sin and believed the way of salvation.
- 2) They looked at the bronze snake on a pole.
- 3) They did not die, but lived.

## 3 Jesus on the cross

John 3:14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

## Application: The Path of Living by Faith

1. Israel’s 40 years in the wilderness reflect the Christian life of faith.
  - The first-generation experienced God’s ten plagues and the miracle of crossing the Red Sea on dry ground, and were delivered from slavery. God gave the first generation the covenant and the Promised Land.
  - What was lacking in the first generation? What kind of life did they lead?
  - How did the second generation differ from their parents? Let’s learn specifically from Numbers 21.
2. People who serve God are entrusted with the role of interceding on behalf of the people who have sinned.
3. God has provided a way of salvation for those who repent of their sins. “Judgment and Atonement for Sin”
4. The Way of Living by Faith: A life lived by trusting in God’s provision of salvation.  
Let us be like a second generation of Israel, even we sin against the Lord, let us repent of our sin.
5. Just as the bronze serpent was lifted up in the wilderness, Jesus was crucified to atone for our sins.  
【John 3:16】 whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
6. In our daily lives, let us walk each day with our eyes fixed on Jesus on the cross. Let us repent of our sins and pray in intercession for those who do not know Jesus.