

Part 7 – The Trouble with Unbelief

In part 6 we learned about another time Israel sinned *terribly*, and of the great intercession Moses made (on behalf of Israel) with the Lord (YHWH), who threatened to wipe them all out. And that terrible sin was when Israel made a golden calf (an idol) *and* worshipped it, *only forty days* (and nights) after they had made a Covenant with the Lord (YHWH) – where they promised *not* to worship any other gods, nor to make any graven images (idols), nor to bow down to them (the First and Second Commandments) – *all* of which were things they did *only forty days after* they swore *not* to do! Yet, despite Israel's great sin, the Lord (YHWH) did not destroy them *all*, thanks to Moses' intercession (when he reminded the Lord, YHWH) of His *unconditional* promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), albeit He did punish them by sending a plague among them. And we also learned that Moses' great intercession was a type of our Savior Jesus Christ. For He shed His righteous blood on the cross so that *anyone* who believes upon Him, repents for their sins *and obeys Him* (from the heart) will be forgiven. And thus, they will be spared from God's great wrath that *will* come upon all those who worship Satan, and make an image to his wicked beast system (participate in it), and bow down to it. So, the blessing of Jesus' interceding for us (by which we find salvation *and* eternal life, Heb 7:25) is the main point of the 'history lesson' we learned of in the last study. And that just reiterates the *overall* lesson, of this Psalm 106, which is *how gracious* the Lord (YHWH) was to deliver (and forgive) Israel *so many times*, despite their rebelliousness to Him. However, the Psalmist certainly isn't done giving us a history lesson...

Psalm 106

24 Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:

25 But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.

Now, these verses jump *forward in time* from the past few verses (when Israel made the golden calf idol and worshipped it, Ex 32) yet is *before* 'Korah's rebellion' (Num 16), which we learned of earlier. So, these verses are referring to what happened after the Lord (YHWH) allowed Israel to go 'spy out' the Promise Land (Num 13). While the Lord (YHWH) had *already* promised them it was a wonderful land full of (flowing with) 'milk and honey' (Ex 13:5), the children of Israel still wanted to send out spies to search out the land *before* they sent their armies. And we know this because of what Moses wrote shortly before he died...

20 And I said unto you, Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the LORD our God doth give unto us.

21 Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up and possess it, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged.

22 And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come.

23 *And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe:*
24 *And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out.*
Deut 1:20-24

This event is recorded of in Numbers 13; and the first few verses explain that Moses must have asked the Lord (YHVH) for approval, because the Lord (YHVH) chose who the spies (one from each tribe) were to be. However, when they returned, ten of the spies brought up an ‘evil report’ (slander, #1681) and said that, while the land was indeed a land that flowed with milk and honey (and they even brought fruit back to prove how productive it was), ***they didn’t think Israel would be able inherit it*** because it was “*a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature*”, which means they were giants (Num 13:31-33). And they didn’t just tell this to Moses and the other leaders of Israel; they went around and broadcasted their ‘opinion’ to the rest of the people (vs 32)! Only Caleb stood up (at first) and testified that they would be able to possess it (vs 30). Later, Joshua joined in with Caleb to try and get the people to believe they could take the land that God had promised them (Num 14:6-8).

But it was of no use, for the people believed them and murmured (yet again) against Moses and Aaron saying: *Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt* (Num 14:1-4). And this is why Psalms 106:24-25 said that they ‘despised’ (spurned, #3988) the pleasant land (the Promise Land) and *believed not* (nor trusted in, #539) *God’s Word*, for He had *already* told them there *would* be giants, but *promised* to enable them to win (Ex 23:27-30). Nor did they believe Caleb, and Joshua, who testified they could fight (and win) against these giants by reminding them of God’s promise to help them fight (and win) against the inhabitants of Canaan (who truly were giants) (Num 13:30, 14:6-9). The to ‘**murmur**’ (in Ps 106:25) means they **grumbled** and **rebelled** (#7279) against God’s Word. And the word ‘**hearkened**’ (also in vs 25) means they wouldn’t **hear intelligently**, meaning *they were not paying attention* to what God said (and promised) nor were they even *intent on being obedient* (#8085)! In fact, they were **so** upset (and hard hearted) that they were ready to stone Josuha and Caleb! And that’s when *the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel* (Num 14:10), which means God Almighty was ready speak *and* to take action, which is what leads us to the next verse in this Psalms 106...

Psalms 106

26 *Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness:*

The word ‘**overthrow**’ here means **to fall** (#5307) and indeed the Lord (YHVH) caused them to ‘fall’ in the wilderness because He condemned that rebellious generation **to die** in the wilderness, as it is written in Numbers 14. Now, the first part of Numbers 14 (verses 1-25) documents how the Lord (YHVH) *initially* threatened (again) to kill all of Israel (with a plague), *and* disinherit them, *and* ‘start again’ with Moses’ children (“*make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they*”). However, Moses interceded (yet again) and the Lord pardoned Israel (yet again). However, He still *refused* to allow those who had - seen His glory, and His miracles, and yet still tempted Him ten times (up to that time), and still wouldn’t listen to Him – to inherit the Promise Land, *except* for Caleb and Joshua. And then He commanded Moses and Aaron to tell the children of Israel...

*28 Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, **as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:***

*29 **Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness**; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, **from twenty years old and upward**, which have murmured against me,*

*30 Doubtless **ye shall not come into the land**, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, **save Caleb** the son of Jephunneh, **and Joshua** the son of Nun.*

*31 **But your little ones**, which ye said should be a prey, **them will I bring in**, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.*

*32 **But as for you**, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.*

*33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, **until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness**.*

*34 **After the number of the days in which ye searched the land**, even forty days, **each day for a year**, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.*

*35 I the LORD have said, **I will surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die**.*

36 And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land,

*37 **Even those men that did bring up the evil report upon the land, died by the plague before the LORD**.*

*38 **But Joshua** the son of Nun, **and Caleb** the son of Jephunneh, which were of the men that went to search the land, **lived still**.*

Num 14:27-32

So, the Lord (YHVH) condemned that generation (twenty years and upward) to die in the wilderness (except for Joshua and Caleb) because of their *continued* murmurings, rebelliousness and utter faithlessness in God’s Word. And He gave them forty years to wander in the wilderness, which was in accordance with how many days the spies spent searching out the Promise Land. Yet, He did spare the innocent ones, i.e. those who were too young to serve in the military. This gave them enough time to grow up so Israel could have a military old (and strong) enough to

fight to inherit the Promise Land. But even the children had to wander forty more years in the wilderness, which is what God meant when He said that *your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness* (vs 33). The term ‘bearing your whoredoms’ means their children had to put up with wandering around forty more years *because of* what their parents (and grandparents) had done. Yet, they *would* still be allowed to enter the Promise Land. And this is why, in his letter to the Hebrews, Paul warns us...

7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,
8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:
9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. [Ps 95]
10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.
11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)
12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.
13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.
14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;
15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.
16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.
17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?
18 And to whom swore he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?
19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.
Heb 3:7-19

So, this historical example – of how not all those who came out of Egypt were allowed to enter into the ‘rest’ of the Promise Land – is an example to us (1 Cor 10:11) that we should *not* harden our hearts to God’s Word, as those Israelites did in the wilderness. For we can only be partakers of Christ (i.e. obtain eternal life when Jesus returns, and serve in His eternal kingdom) IF we ‘hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end’, which means not letting go of our faith in God’s Word, or His Savior, Jesus Christ! And to us, living today, that means we *cannot* apostatize when Satan is here on earth, claiming to be ‘God’ our Savior (2 Thess 2, Rev 12-13, etc.). Otherwise, *we too* will lose out on the ‘rest’ (eternal life, i.e. the first resurrection, Rev 20:4-6) that will come when Jesus Christ returns. The following studies, below, clearly explain the *coming threat* of apostasy we must ever be on guard against...

The Apostasy – Part 1 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499>

The Apostasy – Part 2 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/500>

The Apostasy – Part 3 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/501>

Psalms 106

27 To overthrow their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands.

Now, this verse is connected to verse 26 with a colon, which means these verses are connected in some way. And verse 26 spoke of how God condemned Israel to wander, and die, in the wilderness for forty years; so, they lost out on being able to inherit the Promise Land. Now, in Numbers 14, there's nowhere that the Lord (YHWH) speaks about overthrowing their seed (posterity) among the nations, i.e. of scattering them throughout the world, as this verse states. Rather, the Lord (YHWH) said their children *would* inherit the Promise Land (vs 31) albeit only *after* they wandered in the wilderness waiting for all of the people in the 'condemned generation' to die off (vs 33). Therefore, this verse 27 (here in Ps 106) is referring to *other* Scriptures where God warned that He *would* scatter Israel if they disobeyed Him (Lev 26:27, 33; Deut 4:25-31, Deut 28:58,64, 32:26). However, all of these Scriptures were given to Israel *before* they entered the Promise Land.

So, this verse 27 is *not* speaking of those Israelites were too young to be condemned to die in the wilderness (and thus were allowed to enter the Promise Land). Rather, the Psalmist is simply telling us that, just as the rebellious generation of Israelites died in the wilderness, so too would *future generations* be dispersed *if they disobeyed Him in the same manner* (continually) that the Israelites who came out of Egypt did... and, unfortunately, that *did* happen. 2 Kings 18:9-12 tells us that the ten northern tribes of Israel (and most of Judah and Benjamin) were first taken captive by the Assyrians; and 2 Kings 25 tells us how many years later, Judah and Benjamin were also taken captive, but to the Babylonians. Yet, they did not stay captive forever. We know that some of those taken captive to the Babylonians were allowed to go back to Palestine *after* seventy years, for the books of Nehemiah and Ezra tell us about this (and Jeremiah also prophesied about it). And, because the Bible seems to be silent about the rest of the Israelites (which was the majority of them) many think they simply mixed into other the nations. While this is true, to *some* degree, the truth is that they did not *fully* mix with other nations *to the point of extinction*. As God swore, in Jer 31:35-37 and Jer 33:25-26, Israel never ceased to be a nation, which means they never mingled with other nations *to the point of losing their racial heritage*. So, as Jer 46:28 points out, Israel was simply *punished* when they were dispersed, for God promised not to 'make a full end' of Israel. And that is because of the *physical* promises He gave Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Gen 12, 15, 22, 26, 28, 35) where He promised to multiply their descendants into *innumerable* amount of people *and* into great nations. And while many today don't understand this, those in Christ's day did, for Jesus Himself said He was sent to the 'lost sheep' of the house

of Israel (Matt 15:24) and commanded His disciples to send the Gospel to them (Matt 10:6) before later telling them to go also to all other nations (to spread the Gospel) as well (Mth 28:18-20). And this is why James even wrote a letter to *the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad* (James 1:1). And even the Jews (who hated Jesus) knew that there were Israelites dispersed among the gentiles (John 7:35).

Further, what many people who study the Bible today either forget, or fail to recognize all together, is that God *also* promised He would re-gather Israel after He dispersed them (Deut 30:1-10, Jer 23:2-8, Jer 29:10-14, Jer 30:10-11, Jer 31:10-11, Jer 31:35-37, Ezek 11:16-21, Ezek 20:33-44, Ezek 28:25-26, Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24, Ezek 36:22-2, Ezek 37:21-28). And truly, *God made good on this promise* during the Christian Era, when the modern-day Christian nations rose to power [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/824>]. In fact, Isaiah 18 is a prophesy about the good old United States of America [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Isaiah/410]. So again, this Ps 106:27 is simply pointing out that, just as the rebellious generation of Israelites died in the wilderness, so too would future generations be dispersed **if** they disobeyed Him in the same manner that the Israelites who came out of Egypt did. And, to reiterate, this did happen! But so did the ‘regathering’ of Israel also come to pass via the Christian Era, when the modern-day Christian nations (‘the West’) rose to power. It’s *no coincidence* that nations like the UK, France, Germany and America (and more) became so very powerful in recent centuries. You can also learn more about this by studying Genesis 49 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Genesis/633] where Jacob prophesied what would happen to his children (the Twelve Tribes of Israel) in the ‘latter days’.

So then, all of this ‘history’ is *critical* for us to remember. For, just as *not all* of the Israelites who were freed from Egypt were allowed to *entered* the Promise Land, *and* also how Israel wasn’t able to *remain* in the Promise Land –(*because they continued* to rebel against the Lord, YHWH) so too will those who harden their hearts to God’s Word fail to obtain the ‘rest’, i.e. *eternal* life, at the *first* resurrection, when Jesus Christ returns (Rev 20:4-6). That’s why history is such a good example to us (1 Cor 10:11) ...

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, **To day**, after so long a time; as it is said, **To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

8 For if Jesus [Joshua] had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10 For **he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.**

11 **Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.**

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our profession.**

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

Heb 4:1-15 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Hebrews/14]

We'll pick this up in part 8...

AMEN.