

“The Promised Land”

Num. 13:30-33

Introduction

- I. Can you imagine working hard for something, and when you are about to receive your reward you quit?
- II. Israel is a lesson to us not to quit until we reach “the promised land”.

Discussion

- I. Israel had sufficient reason to trust God.
 - A. God had redeemed them from Egypt.
 - B. God had performed numerous miracles in Israel's sight.
- II. Israel sent spies to examine the land (Num. 13:21-25).
 - A. Just as God had said, the land was richly blessed.
 - B. They returned with a cluster of grapes, and identified the land as one that “flowed with milk and honey” (Num. 13:23 & 27).
- III. Unfortunately, some brought back a negative evaluation (Num. 13:30-33).
 - A. Caleb was not going to stand with the naysayers.
 - B. The majority sided with the spies (cf. “grasshoppers in their sight”).
- IV. Israel lost faith in God and wanted to return to Egypt (Num. 14:1-5).
 - A. After everything that they witnessed, they lost faith.
 - B. They were tired of Moses and trusting the LORD.
- V. Joshua and Caleb try to rally Israel to faithfulness (Num. 14:6-10).
 - A. Some were still confident in the LORD.
 - B. There is a remnant that will trust God.
- VI. Their unfaithfulness is unacceptable to God (Num. 14:11-24).
 - A. God is ready to destroy them.
 - B. Their punishment is 40 years of wandering til death.
- VII. Israel had to learn that God is the source of victory and blessings (Num. 14:39-45).
 - A. If they had simply obeyed, blessings would have been immense.
 - B. Consider Sihon, Og, and Rahab (Num. 21:21-35; Deut. 3:11; Jos. 2:9-11).
- VIII. Christians must trust that our “promised land” awaits us if we are faithful to God (Heb. 3:16-4:11).
 - A. Do we trust God-have we learned from Israel's mistake?
 - B. John 14:1-4
 - C. 2 Cor. 5:1-8

Conclusion

- I. We are promised a place of rest.
- II. If we do not do any better than Israel, we will fail to reach “the promised land”.