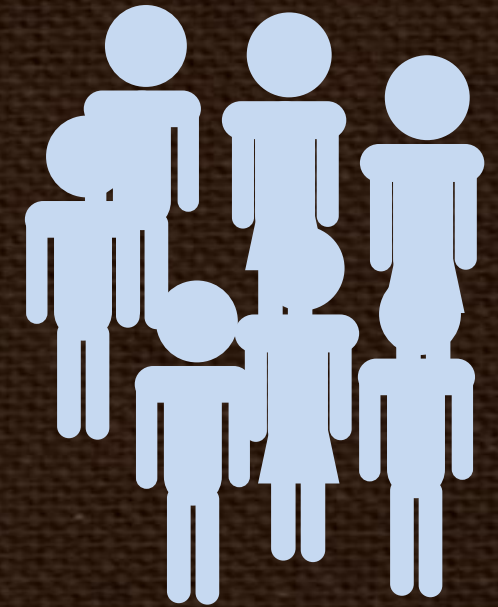


Choosing Faith Over Fear

Numbers 13-14



*Dare to be a Mormon;
Dare to stand alone.
Dare to have a purpose firm;
Dare to make it known.*
--President Thomas S. Monson



Previously...

For the migration to Canaan, Israel was organized into four companies:

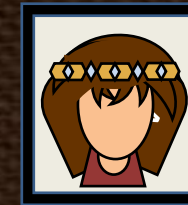
Company 1:

Judah
Issachar
Zebulun
The Levites—
sons of Gerson
and Merari



Company 3

Ephraim
Manasseh
Benjamin



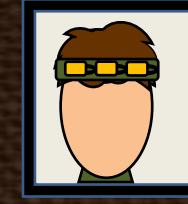
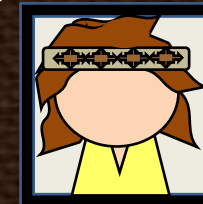
Company 2

Reuben
Simeon
Gad
Levites—
sons of
Kohath



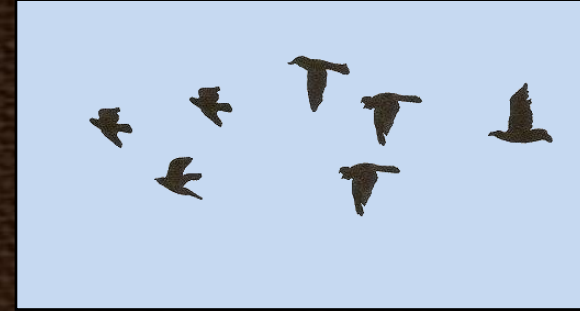
Company 4

Dan
Asher
Naphtali



Fire, Quail Plague, and Leprosy

Three days' travel from Sinai was the first encampment at Taberah, where fiery judgment consumed those who were complainers.



Next, they came to Kibroth-hattaavah, where quail was again provided; but many were smitten with a plague because of their lustfulness. Seventy of the “elders” of the people were endowed to assist Moses in directing the people.

The nation removed to Hazeroth, and Aaron and Miriam slandered their brother Moses and were judged accordingly.



Finally, they arrived in the wilderness of Paran, in the area of Kadesh-barnea, near the borders of the land of Canaan.



A Test of Faith or Fear



A big test or school project

Repentance

The future

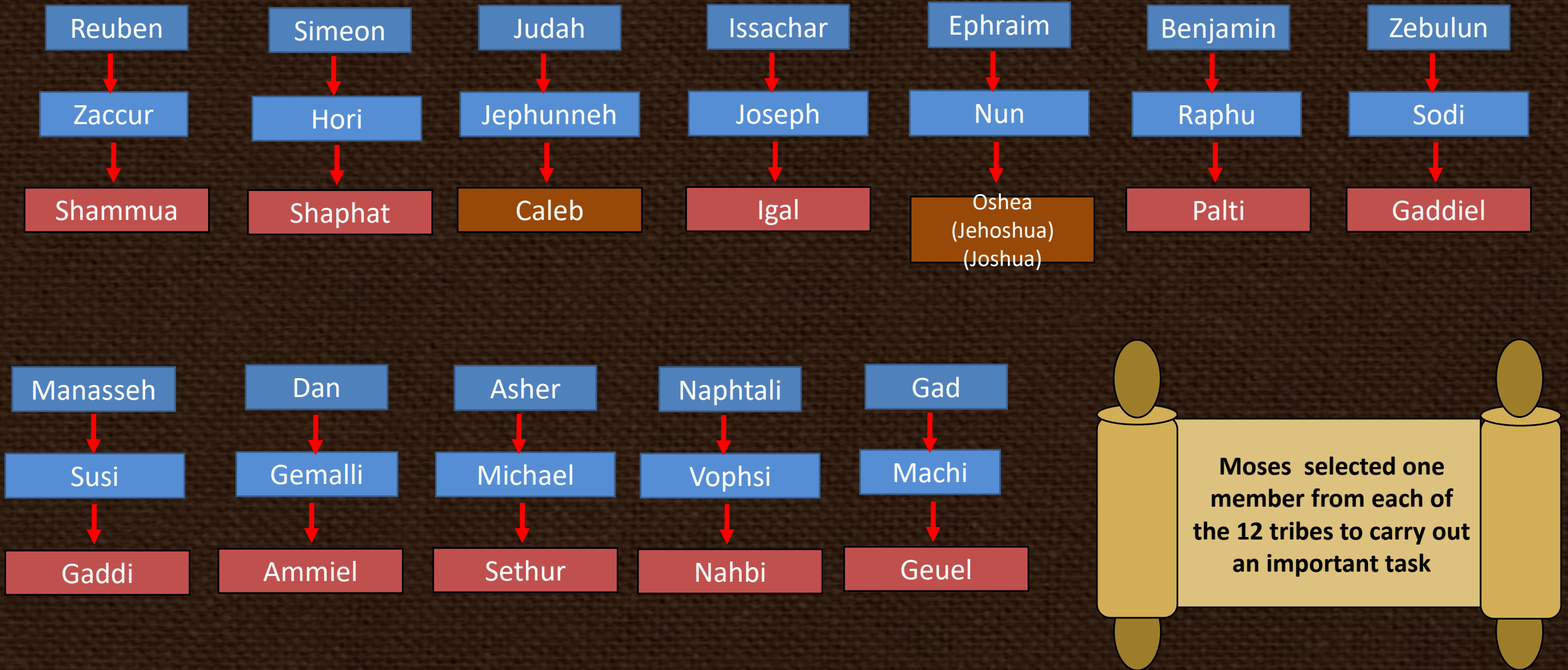


Sharing the gospel



How can we tell if we are viewing a situation with faith in Jesus Christ or with fear?

12 Spies



Moses selected one member from each of the 12 tribes to carry out an important task

Border of the Promised Land

The Land of Caanan

The Lord instructed Moses to send 12 men into the land and have them bring back a report of the land and its inhabitants.

Most of the 12 were afraid about the prospect of conquering the promised land, but Caleb and Joshua had faith that the Lord would help them.

These men were commanded to inspect the land and bring back a report of what they found. After 40 days of investigating the land, the 12 men returned with their reports, along with fruit from the land.



The Survey

SURVEY—The Land		Yes	No
Is it green with rich dirt?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there food?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there fruit growing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there fruit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there trees?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is it good wood?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

SURVEY—The City		Yes	No
Is there a city?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If there is a city, is it large?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is there a wall around the city?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do the people live in tents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do they live in strongholds?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Who is in the city?	<input type="text"/>		
Could we overtake the inhabitants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The Report

After 40 days

SURVEY—The Land	Yes	No
Is it green with rich dirt?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there water?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there food?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there fruit growing?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there trees?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is it good wood?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SURVEY—The City	Yes	No
Is there a city?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If there is a city, is it large?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a wall around the city?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do the people live in tents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do they live in strongholds?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Who is in the city?	Children of Anak--Giants	
Could we overtake the inhabitants?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



And....The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

10 VS 2



“The people are stronger and huge...”giants”

The city is fortified.”

Israel tragically listened to the bad report and acted on it by murmuring against Moses and Aaron

They openly rejected the numerous evidences of God’s power that had been almost daily fare and began to cry out that it would have been better for them never to have left Egypt.

Numbers 11:21-33

“The land is good.

We can overcome them.

The Lord is with us.”

Joshua and Caleb



Trusting in the Lord can help us see our challenges with faith rather than fear.



Fear VS Faith

Just like the children of Israel, we face formidable obstacles. ... It isn't wrong for us to recognize those obstacles. But it is important that we face them with faith. ...

... Each challenge and each obstacle we face is an opportunity to choose, as did Joshua and Caleb, to rely on the Lord.

“Rebel not ... , neither fear...” was good counsel for the children of Israel, and it is still good counsel for each of us today. (5)



Movement to Return to Egypt

A movement was started to reject Moses and choose a leader that would take them back to Egypt



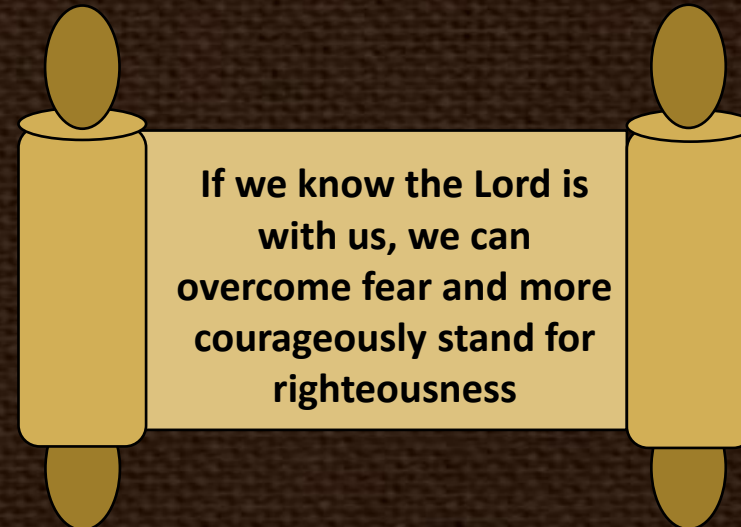
*And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.
Nehemiah 9:17*

The Lord is With Us



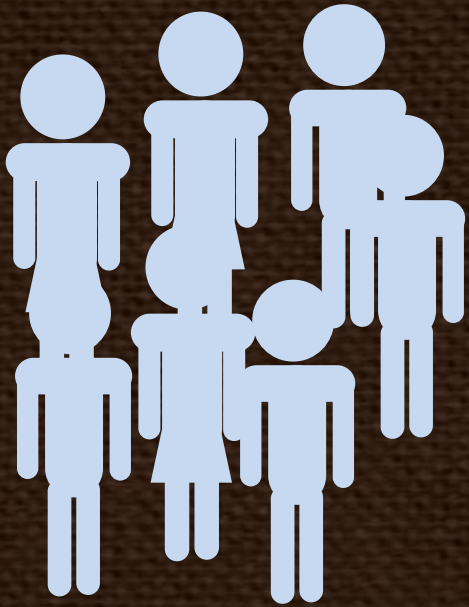
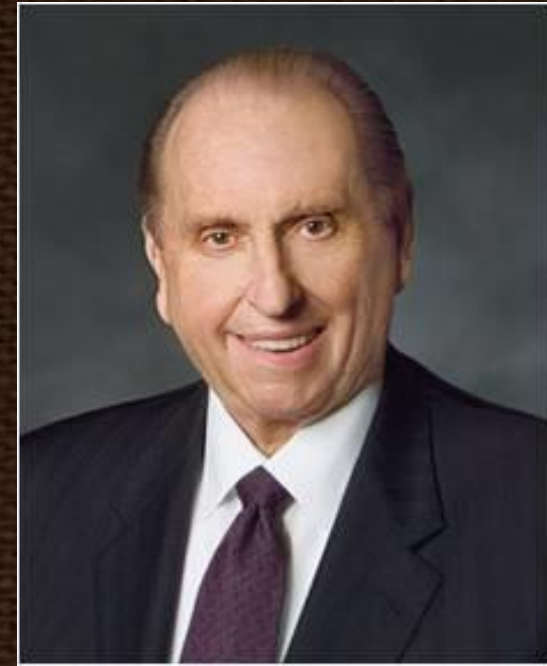
Only Caleb, the representative of the tribe of Judah, and Joshua, the representative of the tribe of Ephraim, expressed faith that, with God's assistance, Israel could conquer the land.

But when Joshua and Caleb tried to counteract the effect of the negative report, the congregation sought to have them stoned



“We may at times find ourselves surrounded by others and yet standing in the minority or even standing alone concerning what is acceptable and what is not.

Do we have the moral courage to stand firm for our beliefs, even if by so doing we must stand alone? ...



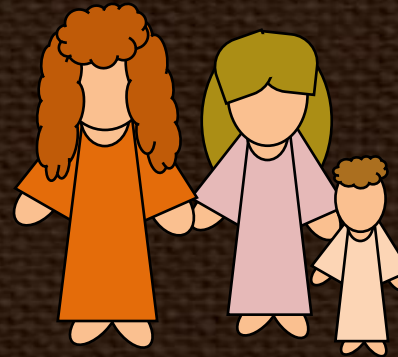
“... May we ever be courageous and prepared to stand for what we believe, and if we must stand alone in the process, may we do so courageously, strengthened by the knowledge that in reality we are never alone when we stand with our Father in Heaven.”

Consequences for Rebellion

Because of their rebellion (murmuring and doubt) the Lord would have destroyed the Israelites, but through the pleadings of Moses the Lord granted their request to die in the wilderness:

They were cursed to live in the desert of Kadesh one year for each day the spies were in the land of Canaan, or 40 years.

Only their small children would be alive to obtain the Promised Land



However: Because of the faithfulness of Caleb and Joshua, them and their tribes would reach the Promised Land.

Desert of Kadesh – Barnea

A key location on the southern border of Canaan, identified with an oasis in the Negev Highlands or the Sinai Peninsula, that served as a major encampment for the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings.

It was a place of significant events, including the sending of spies to scout the Promised Land, the death of Miriam and Aaron, and the rebellion that led to the Israelites' 40 years of wandering.



Attempt An Attack

Like immature children who missed the whole point of parental punishment Israel suddenly decided they would go up against the Canaanites in the southern regions of the land, with the hope they might yet occupy the covenant place of their inheritance. Moses refused to lead them, and they were defeated. (2,3)



“Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them.”

Israel had lost three things because they did not would not follow the Lord:

The right to go and obtain their inheritance (the land) having to live in the desert another 38 years

The loss of many—those who went to fight

And the Lord was not with them



Rather than dwelling on the immensity of our challenges, would it not be better to focus on the infinite greatness, goodness, and absolute power of our God, trusting Him and preparing with a joyful heart for the return of Jesus the Christ?

As His covenant people, we need not be paralyzed by fear because bad things might happen. Instead, we can move forward with faith, courage, determination, and trust in God as we approach the challenges and opportunities ahead. (6)

Sources:

Video: Dare to Stand Alone Video Collection (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)



1. Edward J. Brandt *Journeys and Events in the Life of Moses* Oct. 1973 Ensign
2. Old Testament Institute Manual
Presentation by ©<http://fashionsbylynda.com/blog/>
3. President Thomas S. Monson (“Dare to Stand Alone,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 60, 67).
4. Elder Russell M. Nelson (“Face the Future with Faith,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 34).
5. Elder Kevin R. Duncan (“Rebel Not, Neither Fear,” *Liahona*, Apr. 2022, 47)
6. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, (“Perfect Love Casteth Out Fear,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2017, 106)

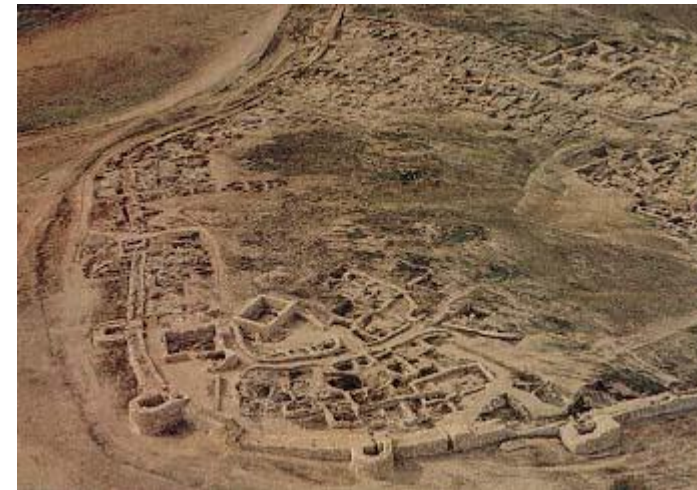
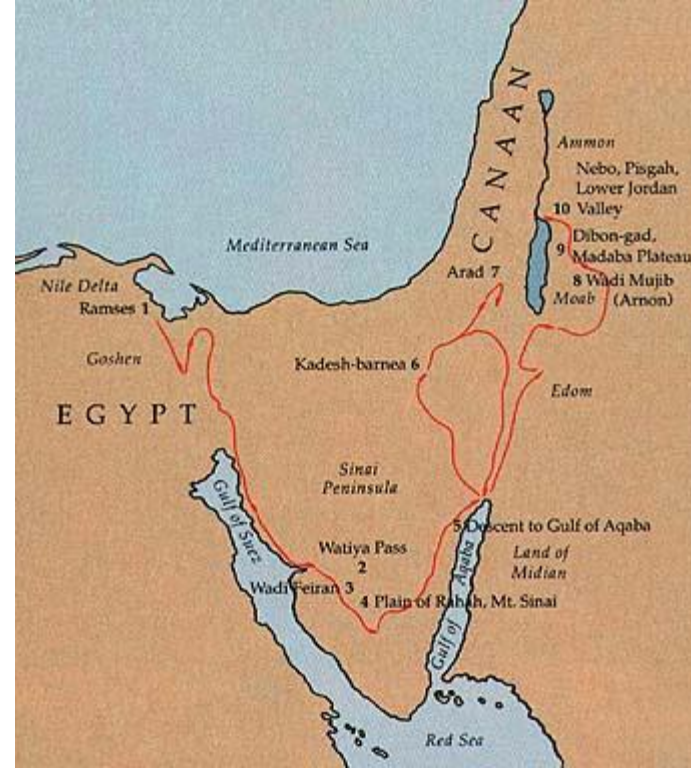
The Book of Numbers

Bible Dictionary

Chapters 1-12	Chapters 13-20	Chapter 21-36
Old Generation Organization and Preparation to leave Mt. Sinai	Transition to Kadesh-barnea—drawing back in unbelief—brings God’s discipline Wilderness	New Generation Move to Plains of Moab—east of Promised Land Reorganization of Israel Regulations (offerings and Vows) Conquest and Division of Israel

Numbers 13	Numbers 14
Investigation of Promised Land	Israel’s Judgment
<i>12 spies 10 “evil reports” The strength of the inhabitants</i>	<i>Joshua (Oshea) and Caleb gives good report of Canaan Israel murmurs Israel’s judgment is to remain in wilderness and only the little children will see the Promised Land Some of Israel try to defeat the Amalekites, to no avail.</i>

Ancient Arad (restored)



Arad offered the most direct route to Canaan. Passing through the wilderness of Zin, they fought the Amalekites and Canaanites at Hormah and Arad and were soundly beaten. Nearly forty years later, they defeated the king of Arad but still had to return to the Red Sea and approach Canaan east of the Salt Sea.

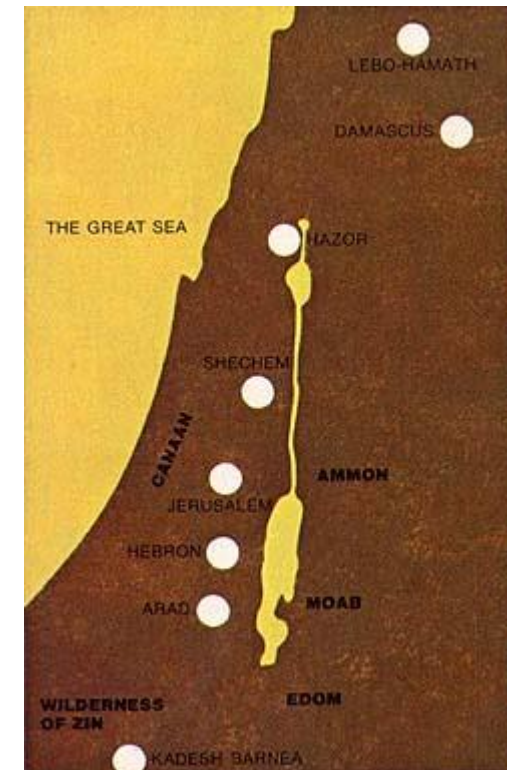
Called Kadesh or Kadesh-barnea, it became Israel's base camp. Near Kadesh, Moses also smote the rock so that water would spring forth. Miriam died at Kadesh (Num. 20:1)

Lack of Faith and Rebellion:

For the next thirty-eight years they were to wander in the harsh wilderness of Sinai. During that time they could have conquered the inhabitants of the land of promise, built cities, eaten the fruit of the land flowing "with milk and honey" (Numbers 13:27), and raised their children in comfort and peace. But they would not, and so all above the age of twenty who had repudiated the power of the Lord, except Joshua and Caleb, were to die in the wilderness.

Caleb's faithfulness:

"From Caleb's example we learn very important lessons. Just as Caleb had to struggle and remain true and faithful to gain his inheritance, so we must remember that, while the Lord has promised us a place in his kingdom, we must ever strive constantly and faithfully so as to be worthy to receive the reward" President Spencer W. Kimball ("Give Me This Mountain," *Ensign*, Nov. 1979, 79).



1. Rameses Israel was thrust out of Egypt (Ex. 12; Num. 33:5).

2. Succoth After the Hebrews left this first campsite, the Lord attended them in a cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night (Ex. 13:20–22).

3. Pi-hahiroth Israel passed through the Red Sea (Ex. 14; Num. 33:8).

4. Marah The Lord healed the waters of Marah (Ex. 15:23–26)
Elim Israel camped by 12 springs (Ex. 15:27).

5. Wilderness of Sin The Lord sent manna and quail to feed Israel (Ex. 16).

6. Rephidim Israel fought with Amalek (Ex. 17:8–16).

7. Mount Sinai (Mount Horeb or Jebel Musa) The Lord revealed the Ten Commandments (Ex. 19–20).

8. Sinai Wilderness Israel constructed the tabernacle (Ex. 25–30).

9. Wilderness Camps Seventy elders were called to help Moses govern the people (Num. 11:16–17).

2. Israel's Exodus from Egypt and Entry into Canaan



10. Ezion-geber Israel passed through the lands of Esau and Ammon in peace (Deut. 2).

11. Kadesh-barnea Moses sent spies into the promised land; Israel rebelled and failed to enter the land; Kadesh served as the main camp of Israel for many years (Num. 13:1–3, 17–33; 14:32:8; Deut. 2:14).

12. Eastern Wilderness Israel avoided conflict with Edom and Moab (Num. 20:14–21; 22–24).

13. Arnon River Israel destroyed the Amorites who fought against them (Deut. 2:24–37).

14. Mount Nebo Moses viewed the promised land (Deut. 34:1–4). Moses delivered his last three sermons (Deut. 1–32).

15. Plains of Moab The Lord told Israel to divide the land and dispossess the inhabitants (Num. 33:50–56).

16. Jordan River Israel crossed the Jordan River on dry ground. Near Gilgal, stones from the bottom of the Jordan River were placed as a monument of Jordan's waters being divided (Josh. 3:1–5:1).

17. Jericho The children of Israel captured and destroyed the city (Josh. 6).