

Numbers 14

Chapter 14 of 36 · 45 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The People Rebel

¹ And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

² And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

³ 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?

⁴ And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

⁵ Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

⁶ And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

⁷ And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

⁸ If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

⁹ Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

11 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Moses Intercedes

13 And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)

14 And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.

15 Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,

16 Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.

17 And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,

18 The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

19 Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

20 And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

24 But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

25 (Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwelt in the valley.) To morrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

God's Judgment on Israel

26 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

27 How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.

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 carcases 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 carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness.

33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases 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.

Defeat at Hormah

39 And Moses told these sayings unto all the children of Israel: and the people mourned greatly.

40 And they rose up early in the morning, and gat them up into the top of the mountain, saying, Lo, we be here, and will go up unto the place which the LORD hath promised: for we have sinned.

41 And Moses said, Wherefore now do ye transgress the commandment of the LORD? but it shall not prosper.

42 Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.

43 For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.

44 But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.

⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites came down, and the Canaanites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hormah.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

Believe — אָמֵן (Aman)

To believe, trust, be faithful

The Hebrew **aman** (אָמֵן) means to believe or confirm—the root of 'Amen.' It conveys firm trust and reliability. Abraham 'believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness' (Genesis 15:6).

Covenant — בְּרִית (Berit)

Covenant, treaty

The Hebrew **berit** (בְּרִית) denotes a covenant—a binding agreement, often ratified by blood sacrifice. God's covenants (Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic) structure redemptive history, culminating in the New Covenant.

Forgive — נָשָׂא / סָלַח (Salach / Nasa)

To forgive, pardon, lift up

The Hebrew **salach** (סָלַח) is used exclusively of God's forgiveness—divine pardon that only He can grant. **Nasa** (נָשָׂא) means to lift up or carry away, picturing sin being removed.

Glory — כְּבוֹד (Kavod)

Glory, weight, honor

The Hebrew **kavod** (כְּבוֹד) literally means 'weight' or 'heaviness,' metaphorically denoting glory, honor, or majesty. God's glory (Shekinah) filled the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34) and temple (1 Kings 8:11).

Iniquity — עָוֹן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (עָוֹן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Mercy — רַחֲמִים (Rachamim)

Compassion, mercy

The Hebrew **rachamim** (רַחֲמִים) derives from 'womb' (rechem), suggesting tender, maternal compassion. God's mercies are 'new every morning' (Lamentations 3:23), showing His compassionate nature.

Repent — שׁוּב / נָחַם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

Spirit — רוּחַ (Ruach)

Spirit, wind, breath

The Hebrew **ruach** (רוּחַ) means spirit, wind, or breath—invisible but powerful. It describes both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit. God's Spirit gives life and empowers His people.

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

Transgression — פְּשָׁע (Pesha)

Transgression, rebellion

The Hebrew **pesha** (פְּשָׁע) means transgression or rebellion—willful violation of God's law. It implies deliberate revolt against divine authority: 'he was wounded for our transgressions' (Isaiah 53:5).

CROSS REFERENCES

Numbers 14:1 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 1:45

Numbers 14:2 **References Moses:** Numbers 16:41; Exodus 15:24; 17:3. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 11:15; Psalms 106:24; Jonah 4:3; 1 Corinthians 10:10; Jude 1:16. **References God:** Jonah 4:8. **References Egypt:** Deuteronomy 1:27

Numbers 14:3 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 78:40. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 9:3

Numbers 14:4 **References Egypt:** Deuteronomy 17:16; 28:68; Acts 7:39. **Parallel theme:** Luke 17:32; Hebrews 11:15

Numbers 14:5 **References Moses:** Numbers 16:4. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 16:22; 16:45; Genesis 17:3; Leviticus 9:24; Joshua 5:14; Revelation 4:10; 5:14. **References Israel:** 1 Chronicles 21:16; Ezekiel 9:8

Numbers 14:6 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 13:6; 13:8; 13:30; 14:30; 14:38; Genesis 37:29; 37:34

Numbers 14:7 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 13:27. **Good:** Deuteronomy 1:25

Numbers 14:8

Light: Deuteronomy 10:15; 2 Samuel 22:20; 1 Kings 10:9; Psalms 22:8; Isaiah 62:4. **Parallel**

theme: Numbers 13:27; Exodus 3:8; Jeremiah 32:41; Romans 8:31. **References Lord:** Zephaniah 3:17

Numbers 14:9 **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 7:18; 31:6; 31:8; 2 Chronicles 20:17; 32:8; Psalms 121:5. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 24:8; Joshua 1:5; Psalms 74:14; Romans 8:31

Numbers 14:10 **References Lord:** Exodus 17:4; 1 Samuel 30:6. **Glory:** Numbers 16:19; 16:42; 20:6; Exodus 16:7; 16:10; Leviticus 9:23. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 23:37

Numbers 14:11

Faith: Deuteronomy 1:32; Psalms 78:22; 78:32; 106:24; John 12:37; Hebrews 3:18. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:23; 14:27; Hebrews 3:8. **References Moses:** Hebrews 3:16

Numbers 14:12 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 25:9; Exodus 32:10; 2 Samuel 24:1

Numbers 14:13

References Moses: Psalms 106:23. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 32:27. **References Egypt:** Ezekiel 20:9. **Parallel theme:** Ezekiel 20:14

Numbers 14:14

Parallel theme: Genesis 32:30; Exodus 15:14; Nehemiah 9:12; 9:19; Psalms 78:14; John 1:18. **References Lord:** Exodus 33:11; 40:38; Deuteronomy 5:4; Joshua 5:1

Numbers 14:16 **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 9:28; Joshua 7:7. **Parallel theme:** Joshua 7:9

Numbers 14:17 **Parallel theme:** Matthew 9:6; 9:8. **References Lord:** Micah 3:8

Numbers 14:18 **Grace:** Psalms 103:8; 145:8; Jonah 4:2; Micah 7:18. **Sin:** Exodus 20:5; Deuteronomy 5:9. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 23:2

Numbers 14:19 **Grace:** Exodus 33:17; 34:9; Isaiah 55:7; Jonah 4:2. **Sin:** Exodus 32:32; 1 Kings 8:34; Psalms 78:38; James 5:15. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 106:45; Jonah 3:10

Numbers 14:21 **Glory:** Psalms 72:19; Isaiah 6:3; Habakkuk 2:14. **References Lord:** Isaiah 49:18. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 32:40; Matthew 6:10

Numbers 14:22 **Parallel theme:** Genesis 31:7; Exodus 17:2; Job 19:3; Psalms 106:26. **References Egypt:** Exodus 32:1

Numbers 14:23 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 26:64; 32:11; Ezekiel 20:15

Numbers 14:24 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 13:30; 26:65; Deuteronomy 1:36; 1 Chronicles 29:9; 29:18; Psalms 119:80; 119:145; Acts 11:23; Ephesians 6:6; Colossians 3:23

Numbers 14:25 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 13:29; Deuteronomy 1:40

Numbers 14:27

References Israel: Exodus 16:12. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:11; Exodus 16:28; Mark 9:19; 1 Corinthians 10:10

Numbers 14:28 **References Lord:** Numbers 14:21. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:2; 14:23; Hebrews 3:17

Numbers 14:29 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 1:45; 26:64; 1 Corinthians 10:5; Hebrews 3:17

Numbers 14:30 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:38; Genesis 14:22

Numbers 14:31 **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 1:39; Psalms 106:24

Numbers 14:32 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:29; 1 Corinthians 10:5

Numbers 14:33

Parallel theme: Numbers 32:13; Deuteronomy 2:14; Psalms 107:40; Ezekiel 23:35

Numbers 14:34

Parallel theme: Numbers 13:25; 1 Samuel 2:30; 2 Chronicles 36:21; Psalms 95:10; Ezekiel 4:6; Daniel 9:24. **Covenant:** Hebrews 4:1

Numbers 14:35 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 23:19; 1 Corinthians 10:5; Hebrews 3:19.

References Lord: Numbers 26:65

Numbers 14:37

Parallel theme: Numbers 14:12; 16:49; 1 Corinthians 10:10; Hebrews 3:17

Numbers 14:38 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 26:65

Numbers 14:39 **Parallel theme:** Exodus 33:4

Numbers 14:40 **Sin:** Deuteronomy 1:41

Numbers 14:41 **Word:** 2 Chronicles 24:20

Numbers 14:42 **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 1:42

Numbers 14:43

References Lord: 2 Chronicles 15:2. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 13:29; 14:25

Numbers 14:44 **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 1:43

Numbers 14:45 **Parallel theme:** Numbers 14:43; 21:3; Deuteronomy 1:44; Judges 1:17

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