



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

NUMBERS 14:11-24

LESSON: MOSES PRAYS FOR MERCY—June 7, 2026

INTRODUCTION:

The Israelite congregation began to shout out loud, lifting their voices, crying, weeping, and complaining that night at the spies' report. They moaned at Moses, Aaron, and God, stating, *"If only (God) we had died..."* whether it was in Egypt or in the wilderness, with an exclamation mark! And then asking, *"Why did GOD bring us to this land to die by the sword? Our wives and our children will be taken as the plunder of war. We would be better off back in Egypt."* Then, amongst themselves they said, *"We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."* The ultimate sin and rebellion was to want another leader, and disregard the one God had chosen (**14:1-4**).

Hearing the bitter ingratitude towards God, Moses and Aaron did not speak to the assembly of the congregation, but they fell face down before them, and Joshua and Caleb were so upset with the complaints of the Israelites that they tore their own clothes. They were the only ones who spoke up to the people with faith in God and said, *"The land we explored is good land. If God is pleased with us, He will bring us, lead us, and give us this land flowing with milk and honey."* *"Please do not rebel against the Lord. Do not be afraid of the inhabitants of the Promised Land because the Lord God has promised that we will swallow them up in war. They have no defense; their protection is gone, for the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."* But the Israelite community did not believe Joshua and Caleb. Their fear and unbelief grew too much, causing them to discuss stoning Joshua and Caleb. Then the glory of the LORD appeared visibly in the tabernacle in front of all of the Israelites to confront their unbelief (**14:5-10**).

LESSON: I. NUMBERS 14:11-12

14:11 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it bend ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? The LORD speaks to Moses, not really asking a question to be answered, for God knows all! How long are these people going to treat Him with contempt, despise Him, and provoke Him? How long will they not believe Him? for He has shown them so many miraculous signs, and they still don't believe.

14:12 I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they. The LORD has gone so far as to say, *"I will strike all the Israelites down with a plague, and they will all die. He says "I will disinherit (disown) and destroy them all. I will make you (talking to Moses), a great nation, greater and stronger than they could ever be."* God is serious about bringing judgment upon these unbelieving and disrespectful people, and just





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deal with Moses—making him to be a greater and mightier nation!

II. NUMBERS 14:13-19

14:13 And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;— After hearing all the LORD wanted to do to these disobedient people whom He had brought out of Egypt by His mighty power, and now to kill them with a plague, disown and destroy them (bring judgment upon them), then Moses reminds the LORD that His adversaries, the Egyptians will hear of this. He's interceding for the people, and points out to the LORD how His adversaries will see Him or think toward Him, and what their reaction and His reputation will look like, for it was by the LORD'S power and might that had brought and rescued the Israelites.

14:14 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. Moses tells the LORD that this story will be told to the inhabitants throughout this land, that He, the LORD lives, dwells among His people, letting Himself be seen face to face. And that He shelters them in the cloud— goes before them in a pillar of a cloud by day, and in a pillar of fire by night. Moses is only pointing out the LORD's honor and reputation of what the inhabitants of the land have heard about Him, and what they've spoken about Him. Moses was a great leader as he interceded between the people and God. And the people had no clue as to God's anger to annihilate them.

14:15 Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,— But, if the LORD decides to annihilate all His people with one blow, the nations which have heard of His fame will be speaking and saying something different—He can't keep His promise.

14:16 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. They would be saying that the LORD was not able to bring His people into the land which He swore to; promised them, and therefore He had to destroy them in the wilderness. Well, this is a much different picture of who they will see God as.

14:17 And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,—Moses begs the Lord "let my LORD'S power be great as You had spoken." We all count on God's power in a time of need. And He has never failed us!

14:18 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. These are the words the LORD had spoken out of His mouth to Moses on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 34:6-7) when the two new tablets of stone had to be made again because Moses had broken the first tablets after coming off the mountain with God. And so, Moses declares these very words now as he intercedes for a rebellious people. And so, Moses speaks about whom he serves, for the LORD is longsuffering, which means He can put up with a lot. He is slow to anger, patient, and abounding in love. The LORD is of great mercy meaning His compassion





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and kindness is enduring. The Lord forgives iniquity and transgression meaning He can forgive wickedness and rebellion because He is a merciful God to those who repent. But, He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. There are still consequences for wickedness and rebellion, but it is delayed until God so desires. The general principle is qualified in two ways:

1. First it applies only to those who hate the Lord—those who persist in unbelief as enemies of God. The cycle of sin and suffering can be broken through repentance.
2. Second, the suffering comes to the third and fourth generation, while God shows steadfast love to thousands of those who love Him and keep His commandments.

14:19 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. Moses is begging the LORD to pardon the iniquity of His people according to the greatness of His mercy; His love. And as He had forgiven His people, from Egypt even until now. The people weren't obedient to God when they were in Egypt, for they followed after the Egyptian gods, and God knew that. Moses is asking God for that same great mercy to pardon them as He had from the time of them leaving Egypt.

III. NUMBERS 14:20-24

14:20 And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:— Well, it looks like God has heard His servant Moses' plea to pardon the people. And just like that the LORD said, "I have pardoned according to thy word." He didn't say "I will", but He says "I have." It was already a done deal. It seems like God was just waiting on someone to intercede; someone to just have faith in Him. We quote Jeremiah 1:12 all the time. It's meaning (to Jeremiah) is literally played out in Moses giving God's Word back to Him. "*Then said the LORD unto me, Thou has well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.*" We must know God's Word in order to give it back to Him; reminding Him that we remember the truth of His Word and of who He is, and what He's able to do—and that is, He cannot lie. Moses stepped up—Worded up—and God looked at, as Moses gave God's Word back to Him. God looked after His Word to perform it.

14:21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. God tells Moses as truly as He, the LORD lives, His glory; His Presence will fill all the earth, for He is the Living God!

14:22 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;— Now that God had pardoned them, they will not go unpunished, for the very fact and truth, that these men had seen God's glory—His miracles done in Egypt, and in the wilderness, and they've tempted God ten times. God put a number to it.

1. At the Red Sea (Exo.14:11-12) serve the Egyptians than die in the wilderness.
2. At Marah (Exo.15:23-24) bitter water.
3. In the Wilderness of Sin (Exo.16:1-3) hungry in the desert.
4. At Rephidim (Exo.17:1-3) lack of water.
5. At Sinai (Exo.32:1-6) making a golden calf.
- 6-7. At Taberah (two occasions—Num.11:1-3 their complaining displeased the Lord, vv.4-9 a mixed





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multitude longed for the good things (food) of Egypt. 8. At Kibrothhattaavah vv.31-34 the quail brought a great plague because they lusted. 9-10. In the wilderness of Paran to Kadesh (two occasions— (Num.14:1-4 grumbled and rebelled against the Lord, vv.10-12 rejected God and His power and provoked the Lord to judgment.

God counted the times they had tempted Him and did not heed to His voice. They kept wanting to go back to Egypt. They kept saying they were brought into the wilderness to die. And they didn't even want to enter into the Promised Land when the spies went in. Well, they got exactly what they kept saying, when they kept challenging God's power which was unthinkable! They were snared by their own words, and their hearts did not change. Proverbs 18:21 says *"Life and Death are in the power of your tongue."*

14:23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swore unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:— If we go back to verse 18 God will not leave the guilty unpunished. This promise overturns the first promise! The LORD shows that He can pardon, and still fill the earth with His glory, but He will not tolerate their disobedience while receiving His miracles. The LORD says **"Surely"** meaning that this is a sure thing; He's confident and positive that these men that have seen His Glory and His miracles, and have tempted Him, and have not heeded His voice, shall receive His judgment! They will not see the Promised Land that He swore to their fathers, and neither shall any of them that had provoked Him see it.

14:24 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. The LORD is specific in whom He will allow to receive His promises at this point. In this verse, He only speaks of His servant Caleb who will be the one brought into the land, and his seed (children) shall possess the land because of Caleb's spirit, *"for he has another spirit with him, and he has wholly followed the LORD"* (Deut.1:36). But Joshua will be the other one to enter the Promised Land (Deut.1:38).

Caleb, 40yrs. old was one of twelve spies at Kadesh Barnea when they spied out the Land of Canaan (Jos.14:7). The Israelites had wandered in the wilderness 38yrs and 7yrs of war would continue. Caleb and Joshua were the only ones who believed Israel could take the land God offered. So, 45yrs passed, and Caleb now reminds Joshua (the one in charge) of the Word that was given to him by God through Moses. By now Caleb is 85yrs old (Jos.14:10) and still strong, so he asks for the land/the mountain God promised him (Jos.14:12). At 85yrs old Caleb possesses the promise. *"Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance"* Joshua 14:13.

SUMMARY:

The LORD speaks to Moses, not looking for his answer, for God already knows the answer. But He says *"How long these people going to treat Him with contempt; provoke Him. How long will*



they not believe Him, for He's shown them so many miraculous signs" And now, the LORD goes on to say, "I will strike all the Israelites down with a plague, and they will all die. I will disinherit (disown) and destroy them all. I will make Moses a great nation, greater and stronger than they could ever be." God is serious about bringing judgment, but He will also see who will intervene (14:11-12).

After hearing all the LORD wanted to do to these disobedient people, Moses reminds the LORD that His adversaries, the Egyptians will hear of this, and that this story will be told to the inhabitants throughout this land, of how the LORD dwells among His people, letting Himself be seen face to face, and how God shelters them in the cloud. Moses also points out that the LORD's honor and reputation of what the inhabitants of the land have heard about Him, and what they've spoken about Him. **However**, if the LORD decides to annihilate all His people with one blow, the nations which have heard of His fame will speak and say something different—*"The Lord was not able to bring His people into the land which He swore to; promised them, therefore He had to destroy them in the wilderness."* Moses begs the LORD, *"Let my LORD'S power be great as You had spoken, for You are longsuffering; of great mercy; forgives iniquity and transgression, and will by no means leave the guilty unpunished visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.*" Moses is asking God for that same great mercy to pardon them that He had from the time of them leaving Egypt (14:13-19).

And just like that, God heard His servant Moses' plea to pardon the people for the LORD said, *"I have pardoned according to thy word."* God tells Moses that His glory will fill all the earth as truly as He, the LORD lives. But in God pardoning them, they will not go unpunished for the very fact and truth that these men had seen God's glory, and His miracles done in Egypt and in the wilderness, and they've tempted God ten times. Well, they got exactly what they kept saying with their mouths when they kept challenging God's power. The LORD says "**Surely**" meaning that this is a sure thing. The LORD is specific in whom He will allow to receive the promise at this point. His servant Caleb will be the one brought into the Promised Land, and Caleb's seed shall possess the land because of Caleb's spirit, for he has another spirit with him, and he has followed God fully (14:20-24).