



World Christian Fellowship

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Fear or Faith? Numbers 14:11-25

Numbers 14:11-25, *Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? ¹²I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."*
¹³And Moses said to the Lord: "Then the Egyptians will hear it, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them, ¹⁴and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, Lord, are among these people; that You, Lord, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. ¹⁵Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, ¹⁶'Because the Lord was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.' ¹⁷And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying, ¹⁸'The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means

clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.’¹⁹ Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.”

²⁰Then the Lord said: “I have pardoned, according to your word; ²¹but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord— ²²because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, ²³they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. ²⁴But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. ²⁵Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.”

TV infomercials

Vulnerable time for people is late night!

QVC ever broadcast and sold, in **November 1986**, was an **\$11.49** shower radio (Windsor Shower Companion). The year that QVC launched, it reached nearly **8 million homes**, with the first full year of sales reaching more than **\$110 million**.

The top five most popular items being bought on John Lewis in the early hours of the morning are:

- duvet covers.
- televisions
- laptops
- mobile phones
- freezers

What would you say about God in the infomercials?

Faithfulness!

Promises are not personal, but they are communal, national, and global.

Hebrews 11:13, *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*

History of Israel journey from Egypt to Wilderness.

Passover,

Red sea,

Mara,

Manna,

Meat,

Pillar of Cloud.

Goodness of the Lord in the land of living.

Psalms 27:13-14, *I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. ¹⁴ Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!*

Chapter 13 Spies going out and brought report.

1. Reason without Revelation

Report of the spies.

Report is not false, but it is the reality.

Where is your focus?

Did you pray?

Down on your knees.

Genesis 15:18-21, *On the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates— ¹⁹the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."*

The “preaching of the Cross” is nothing but foolishness to those who do not believe. The offense of the Cross is its revealing both man’s utter helplessness and God’s way of redeeming him.

Redemption through Jesus Christ is an act far transcending human experience and wisdom.

Revelation is solely from and by God.

Reason is a human faculty given to man by God.

By divine fiat man was granted the power to say yes and to say no. Man is held accountable for his choice. Wrong choices based on faulty reasoning carry grave penalties.

The Apostle Paul, preaching in Lystra against the idolatry of that city, told of God’s dealings with mankind from the time of the creation.

Acts 14:17, Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

2. Forgetting the history with God lets you to lose hope!

God has been faithful to them in every circumstances.

Dark past,

Bright future with full of hope.

Thirukural 595.

**வெள்ளத் தனைய மலர்நீட்டம் மாந்தர்தம்
உள்ளத் தனையது உயர்வு.**

Sri Lankan Tamils.

Nahum 1:7, *The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.*

1 Samuel 12:24, *Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.*

Psalms 77:11-12, *I will remember the works of the Lord; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. ¹²I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.*

3. Promise of His presence in the midst of enemies.

Exodus 3:15-17, *Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'¹⁶ Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The Lord God of your fathers,*

the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt;¹⁷ and I have said I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites, to a land flowing with milk and honey." '

Enemies will be there, but His presence will also be there.

Omnipresent is the big word we use to describe this attribute of God. The psalmist affirmed the omnipresence of God.

Psalms 139:7-8, *Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.*

The problem is this: if God is present everywhere, why do I sometimes feel He is so far away?

It can be helpful in those times to understand the difference between God's omnipresence and the manifest presence of God.

God's omnipresence means He is always there—even when the awareness is not. His Holy Spirit indwells believers at all times.

God's manifest presence, however, is something that occurs in our lives as He chooses to reveal Himself. It is something that is sometimes experienced and other times not.

Familiar examples of the manifest presence of God in Scripture include:

- Jacob at Bethel (**Genesis 28:15**)
- Moses at the burning bush (**Exodus 3:2-6**)
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (**Daniel 3:24-25**)
- The disciples in the storm (**Matthew 14:22-27**)

4. Fruit of Faith.

Numbers 13:23-24, *Then they came to the Valley of Eshcol, and there cut down a branch with one cluster of grapes; they carried it between two of them on a pole. They also brought some of the pomegranates and figs. ²⁴The place was called the Valley of Eshcol, because of the cluster which the men of Israel cut down there.*

Testimony builds your faith.