

Homework: Numbers 13-15

1. Overview of Numbers 13-15

2. Numbers 14:18 (KJV) "...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation*."

This passage, along with Exodus 34:6-7 and Jeremiah 32:18, seem to give the impression that trans-generational punishment is righteous. However, Ezekiel 18:20 seems to contradict that position. Which is it?

3. With the teaching the "Weightier Matters of the Torah" in mind, breakdown the attributes of Yahweh (from the Hebrew) in Numbers 14:18-19

"Yahweh is **longsuffering**, and of great **mercy**, forgiving **iniquity** and **transgression**, and **by no means clearing the guilty**..."

¹⁹ Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the **greatness** of thy **mercy**...

4. Detail Moses 8 points of instructions to the spies in Numbers 13:17-20

5. From an archeological perspective, what do we know about the three sons of Anak (Numbers 13:22)?

6. How is the report the 10 spies shared with the congregation of Israel like the almost mass hysteria present in society today as we await the zombie apocalypse?

7. Before the spies left to spy out the land, what did adding a yud to Hoshea's name by Moses accomplish (Numbers 13:16)? **הוֹשֵׁעַ** became **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ**:

8. Break down the report of the 10 spies and explain how it proceeded to deceive and manipulate the people.

9. Compare the use of 'grasshoppers' as found in Isaiah 42:22 with Numbers 13:33?

10. The men selected to spy out the land were leaders in their respective families so what happened that caused them to lose faith in the power of the Almighty?

11. Expound from Hebrews 3:8 – 4:11 and Jude 5 what we are to take away from Numbers 13-14.

12. How do Tzitzis accomplish their task today?

13. Advanced

Numbers 14:9 "...their shade/shadow **צֶלְ** has departed from them..."

Who is this and what are the dots that need to be connected throughout the Tanakh that help us understand what was really going on behind the scenes?

Hint: Genesis 15:16; Numbers 21:29, Chemosh, and the Moabite Stone

14. Chapter 13 is thematically linked to the previous two by the motif of rebellion. Two episodes, listed in the order of increasing severity, have been related in chapter 11. Although Moses takes the second of them personally (vv. 10-15), it is only in the third that the attack against him is direct (12:1).

With the Almighty acting swiftly and decisively in the punishment of Miriam, one might like to think that they (Israel) “got it!” and that such slander and grumbling (improper speech) would be avoided (or at least shunned) since Yahweh will have no problem striking them down on the spot.

But...

In the present chapter instead, there comes an escalation: a rebellion so severe that the people not only consider choosing a new leader, but also rejecting their destiny as the covenant community (“Let us . . . go back to Egypt,” 14:4). It’s almost like they are still slaves in their hearts and minds, even though they are definitely in the covenant.

With the golden calf, the rebels are punished but the rest of the people continue on the way. Yet here, Yahweh brings the march to the promised land to a halt. An entire generation is so regarded as an impediment to God’s plan that progress cannot be made until death removes them from the scene.

Therefore, concerning the Messianic community worldwide today, what is it going to take for us to stop thinking that everyone else has this problem and instead pause, and look into the mirror and see where each one of us actually are?