



Timeless lives from the God-Story

OUT OF EGYPT: LESSONS IN GRUMBLING

Numbers 9-14

Do you find it easy or difficult to reign in your complaints? Is the issue of “fairness” an obsession with you? One thing is clear from the example of God’s chosen people - it is very natural for people to complain - especially about adversity!

As Moses led the people through the wilderness (a forty day journey that took 40 years) God was in the process of “getting Egypt out of the people.” A mere change of location does not result in a change of heart, and God is in the business of changing hearts!

Numbers 9-10

Once again the Passover is significant in the life of the Jews. How was God leading them to camp or move? What was being “clean” supposed to teach the Jews about the condition of their hearts? How would it have impacted men, women, and children to be led the way these people were being led? Why were the silver trumpets necessary? How many people were moving and how would this have worked? What part was the Ark playing in their travels? What kinds of pictures do these passages paint in your mind?

Numbers 11

What was the source of the Israelite’s complaint? What would have been the practical challenges for the situation they were in that may have been putting pressure on them? What was the main transition they were struggling with that made Egypt more appealing? Why is it necessary to give them both meat and a plague? What is God trying to accomplish? Why was greed such a severe problem?

Numbers 12-13

How would Moses have felt about the murmuring of Miriam and Aaron? What was the source of this discontent? Why was God so harsh in His response? Why is Moses’ response so striking? What were the people struggling with as the spies returned? Why were their hearts so fearful? Did they have good reason not to put faith in God? Why were Joshua and Caleb ready to go?

Numbers 14

Israel begins to whine! Why do they turn on their leaders? How volatile is this situation? How do you feel about Moses’ response? What does God want to do? Why is Moses becoming someone who intercedes rather than someone who leads? What is the consequence of these people’s unbelief?

It is comfortable to follow God when our lives are comfortable! Apparently God is interested in those who follow Him even in the middle of tough times. This is why Joshua, Caleb, and Moses stand apart from the rest of the people. They were willing to believe and follow even when circumstances were not optimal, and the rejected “easier” routes. Are you this kind of man or woman of God?

My conclusions from this study...
