



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE NUMBERS 14:13-24

## MOSES' PRAYER AND GOD'S ANSWER

November 7, 2021

### INTRODUCTION:

GOD PRONOUNCES JUDGMENT ON THE REBELLIOUS ISRAELITES

**Numbers 14:10-12** The Lord speaks to Moses, and He's saying how long these people going to treat Him with contempt; provoke Him. He's saying how long will they not believe Him, for He's shown them so many miraculous signs? The Lord has gone so far as 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 you (talking about Moses), a great nation, greater and stronger than they could ever be.*" God is serious about bringing judgment!

### LESSON: I. MOSES' GREAT REQUEST 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 power, and wants to kill them with a plague, disown and destroy them (bring judgment upon them), 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 has 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 sheltering them in the cloud going before them in a pillar of a cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. Moses is pointing out the Lord's honor and reputation of what the inhabitants of the land have heard about Him, and what they will speak about Him.

**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.

**14:16** Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he sware 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, therefore He had to destroy them in the wilderness.

**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





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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 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 that He forgive His people, from Egypt even until now. The people weren't obedient to God when they were in Egypt. They followed after the Egyptian gods, but God knows that. And Moses is asking God for that same great mercy to pardon them that He had from the time of them leaving Egypt.

## II. GOD'S GREAT JUDGMENT 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 for the Lord said, "I have pardoned according to thy word." 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. That's what Moses did, he gave God's Word back to Him and 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 that 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 He had 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) *Pharaoh's army would destroy them.* 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 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.*

He's 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





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enter into the Promised Land when the spies went in. Well, they got exacting what they kept saying when they kept challenging God's power which was unthinkable! They were snared by their words and their hearts did not change.

**14:23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:—** 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 has 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 the promise at this point. His servant Caleb will be the one brought into the land and his seed (children) shall possess the land also because of Caleb's spirit, "*for he has another spirit with him, and he has followed God fully.*"

Caleb was 40yrs. old at Kadesh Barnea when he spied out the Land of Canaan. And the Israelites had wandered in the wilderness 38yrs. Then the conquering of the Land took 7yrs and Caleb was now 85yrs old (Joshua 14:10). Caleb reminded Joshua, (the one in charge) of the Word that was given to him by God through Moses. "*Joshua blessed him and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance*" Joshua 14:13.

## SUMMARY:

After hearing all the Lord wanted to do to these disobedient people whom He had brought out of Egypt by His power, and wants to kill them with a plague, disown and destroy them (bring judgment upon them), Moses reminds the LORD that His adversaries, the Egyptians will hear of this. 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 sheltering them in the cloud going before them in a pillar of a cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. Moses is pointing out the Lord's honor and reputation of what the inhabitants of the land have heard about Him, and what they will speak about Him. 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. They would be saying that 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.*" And 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).

Well, it looks like God has heard his servant Moses' plea to pardon the people for the Lord said, "*Lhave 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 He had done in Egypt and in the wilderness, and they've tempted God ten times. Well, they got exacting 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 land and Caleb's seed shall possess the land because of his spirit, for he has another spirit with him, and he has followed God fully (14:20-24).

