

# THE UNBELIEF OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Numbers Lesson 2  
(Num 11:1 – 16:50)

GLEF 2019

## Numbers 14:11

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?’”

# Review of Numbers Lesson 1

- 1:3: You and Aaron are to number by their divisions all the men in Israel twenty years old or more who are **able to serve in the army**.
- 9:23: At the Lord 's command they encamped, and at the Lord 's command they set out. They **obeyed** the Lord 's order, in accordance with his command through Moses.

# Factual Study

Chapter	Verses	Moses getting support and God's punishment on the grumbling people
11	1-3	The burning fire from God because of the complaining of his people
	4-9	The craving of the rabble, wailing and und dissatisfaction of the Israelites with the manna
	10-15	God's anger at the wailing of his people and Moses' plea for help to carry the people
	16-17	God's promise for seventy of Israel's elders as Moses' coworkers
	18-20	God gives meat to the Israelites for a whole month, until it comes out of their nostrils
	21-23	The Lord's arm for 600,000 men on foot
	24-25	God's answering on the prayer through the Spirit on the on the seventy elders
	26-30	Two men – Eldad and Medad – who are filled by the Spirit
	31-35	God's provision and anger at the craving of the people and the departure to Hazeroth

Chapter	Verses	Miriam's leprosy
12	1	Miriam's and Aaron's opposes because of Moses' partnership with a Cushite
	2-3	Their rebellion against God and his servant Moses and Moses' humility
	4-8	God's rebuke for Miriam's and Aaron's rebellion against Moses, God's servant
	9-14	Miriam's leprosy and confining her outside the camp for seven days
	15-16	The departure of the people and their encampment in the Desert of Paran

# Factual Study

Chapter	Verses	The sending and return of the explorers (1)
13	1-3	The sending of 12 explorers from each of the 12 tribes to Canaan
	4-15	The names of the 12 leaders of the Israelites
	16	Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua
	17-20	Moses' command to explore the land and bring back some of the fruit of the land
	21-24	The descendants of Anak and the branch bearing a single cluster of grapes at the Valley of Eshcol
	25-29	The return and report of the explorers after 40 days
	30-33	Caleb's courage to take possession of the land and the bad report of the ten other men out of their discouragement

# Factual Study

Chapter	Verses	The sending and return of the explorers (2)
14	1-4	The grumbling of the people against God's leading and their longing to go back to Egypt
	5-9	Joshua's and Caleb's encouragement for the people to swallow the people of the land up
	10-12	God wanted to strike the people down for treating him with contempt and their unbelief
	13-19	Moses' plea for God's mercy and forgiveness of their sin and rebellion
	20-25	God's forgiveness, his punishment for their unbelief and the people treating God with contempt, and Caleb's blessing
	26-35	God's punishment for 40 years for the grumbling of the people and the blessing for Caleb, Joshua and the children of the people
	36-38	The death of the ten explorers and the survival of Joshua and Caleb
	39	The mourning of the people
	40-45	The Israelites go up toward the high hill country against Moses' command and were attacked by the Amalekites and Canaanites all the way to Hormah

# Factual Study

Chapter	Verses	Grain- and drink offerings
15	1-12	God's command to give grain- and drink offering in addition to the offerings made by fire
	1-5	Lamb → grain offering: a tenth of an ephah of fine flour, a quarter of a hin of oil; drink offering: a quarter of a hin of wine
	6-7	Ram → grain offering: two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, a third of a hin of oil; drink offering: a third of a hin of wine
	8-10	Young bull → grain offering: three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, half a hin of oil; drink offering: half a hin of wine
	11-12	Amount of offerings = amount of grain- and drink offerings
	13-16	A lasting ordinance for the generations to come that the people and the alien shall be the same before the Lord
	17-21	A cake from the first of their ground meal
	22-26	A young bull for a burnt offering, a male goat for a sin offering at the community's unintentional failure to keep God's commands and atonement through the priest
	27-29	A year-old female goat for a sin offering, the atonement through the priest at an unintentional sin of one person
	30-31	The cutting off from the people of anyone who sins defiantly
	32-36	The death penalty through the stonement of the church for a man who gathered wood on the Sabbath day
	37-41	The tassels on the corners of their garments, with a blue cord on each tassel for remembering all the commands of the Lord and not prostituting themselves by going after their lusts of their own hearts and eyes

# Factual Study

Chapter	Verses	The rebellion and destruction of Korah
16	1-3	The rising up of Korah against Moses' and Aaron's leadership
	4-7	Moses' command for Korah to experience their holiness by putting fire and incense in censers
	8-11	Moses' rebuke to the unthankful and grumbling Korah
	12-15	The rebellion of Dathan and Abiram against Moses' leadership
	16-19a	Korah and all his followers at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting
	19b-24	God's plan to put an end to the assembly of Korah
	25-27	Moses' rebuke to the assembly to move back from the tents of these wicked men
	28-30	God's sign of sending Moses and that these men have treated the Lord with contempt by swallowing them
	31-34	The perishing of Korah's men
	35	The destruction of 250 men through the Lord's fire
	36-40	The taking of the censers out of the smoldering remains and through Eleazar as a warning for the Israelites that no one except a descendant of Aaron should burn incense
	41-43	The grumbling of the Israelite community against Moses and Aaron
	44-50	The atonement through Aaron for the assembly and 14,700 people who died from the plague



# God is faithful

- The 1<sup>st</sup> generation's unbelief → death in the desert
- God's promise for the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation
- Disobedient people, but faithful God

11:1

"Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp."

# God's anger at his people's complaining

- Beginning of the journey to the Promised Land
- Complaining of the Israelites
- God's anger

# The source of the Israelites' wailing

- Unthankfulness (11:6)
- Craving of other food (11:4,34)
- Rejection and rebellion against God (11:20)

# God's powerful arm (11:16-20)

- 70 of Israel's elders
- Meat for a whole month



Our God **hears** what we say.

Numbers 14:26-28: “The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: ‘How long will this wicked community grumble against me? **I have heard** the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. So tell them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the LORD, I will do to you the very thing **I heard** you say.’ ”

Our God **hears** what we say.

- “The Lord hears” appears 6 times. (11:1(2x),18; 12:2; 14:27,28)

# Respect God's servants.

- Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses. (12:8)
- The consequence of their rebellion: Miriam's leprosy (12:10)



# Exploring Canaan

- 13:27: “We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey. Here is its fruit.”
- Complaining about the powerful people, the fortified cities, the Amalekites, the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites and the Canaanites. (13:27-29)

# The spies' unbelief

- “We can’t attack those people” (13:31)
- They spread a bad report about the land. (13:32)

# God's promise

- God had promised the land to Abraham and his descendants.
- He had promised that he would drive out the people of the land before them. (Ex 3:8; 3:17; 23:23; 23:28; 33:2; 34:11)
- The spies except Caleb and Joshua, and the Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. (14:1)

# Joshua and Caleb

## **How could their report be so different?**

“We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.” (13:30)

“The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good.” (14:7)

# The reason for Joshua's and Caleb's good report

- No rebellion against the Lord
- No fear of the people of the land
- Full trust in God. (14:9)

14:11

"How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?"

# Treating God with contempt

- Refusing to believe in god, in spite of all the signs of God
- Having no word of God
- Not having God's promise in their hearts

# The consequence of their unbelief

- 14:23: “...not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.”



# God is faithful!

14:24: “But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.”

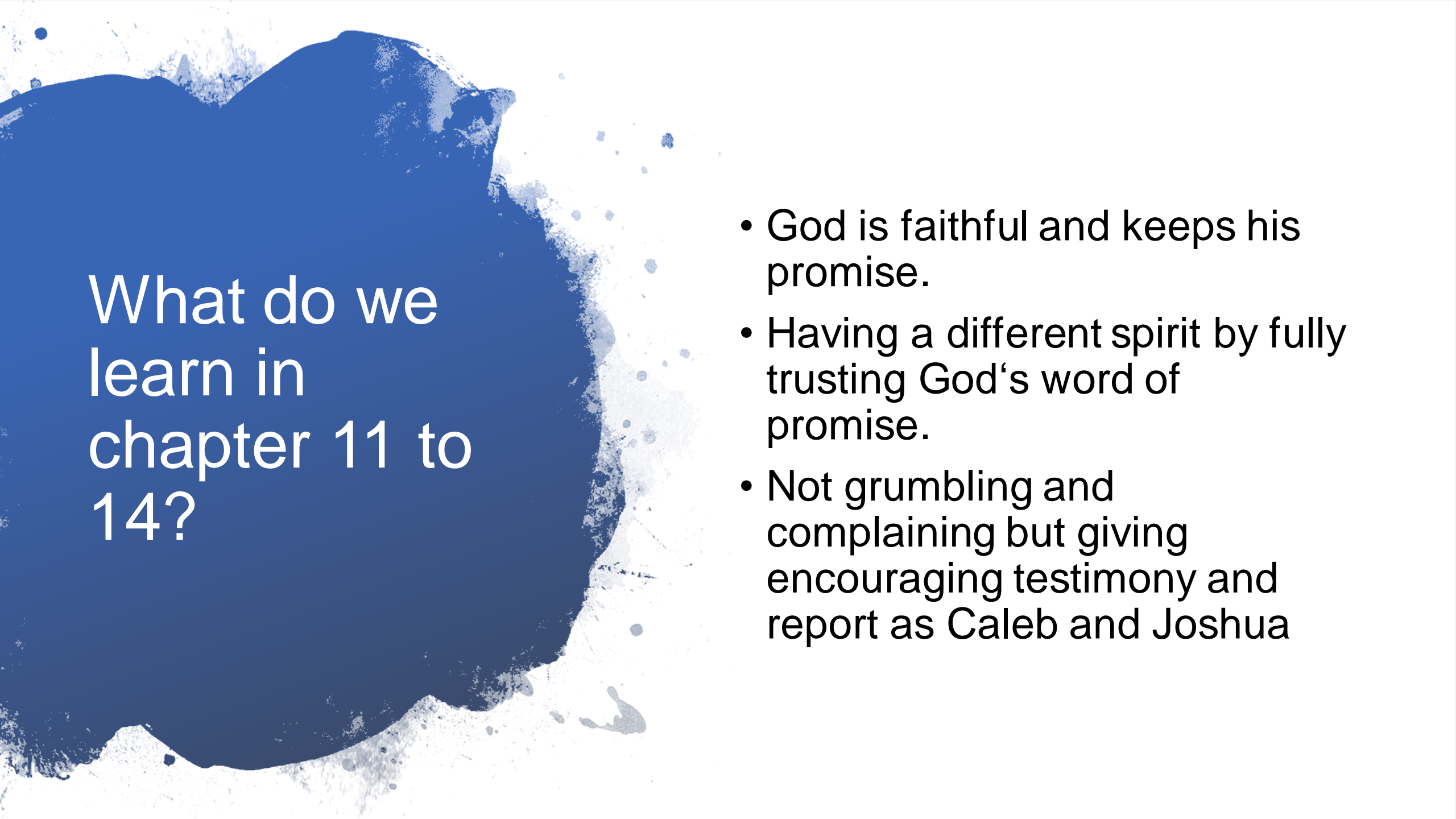
# God is faithful!

- God is faithful for he wanted to bring the next generation in to enjoy the Promised Land. (14:31)



# God's grace in my life

- Grumbling and comparing myself with my worldly friends in school who were not living with God's mission
- Deut 6:5
- Ezk 37:10
- Repenting of my grumbling which came from not having God's word in my heart



What do we  
learn in  
chapter 11 to  
14?

- God is faithful and keeps his promise.
- Having a different spirit by fully trusting God's word of promise.
- Not grumbling and complaining but giving encouraging testimony and report as Caleb and Joshua

# God's faithfulness

- Additional sacrificial laws after entering the land (15:1-4)
- Supplemental food offerings for every sacrifice
- The next generation should learn to thank God for his grace and hope, so they would not commit the same sin as their fathers

# The rebellion of the group of Korah

- Rising against Moses and opposing him (16:2-3)
- Unthankfulness despite God's chosen grace (16:9-10)
  - "Isn't it enough for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the rest of the Israelite community and brought you near himself to do the work at the Lord's tabernacle and to stand before the community and minister to them? He has brought you and all your fellow Levites near himself, but now you are trying to get the priesthood too."

# The consequence of their grumbling

- 250 Israelite men were consumed by the Lord's fire (16:35)
- 14,700 people died from the plague (16:49)

And on that day  
When my strength is failing  
The end draws near  
And my time has come  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years  
And then forevermore  
Forevermore



Bless the Lord oh my soul  
Oh my soul  
Worship His Holy name  
Sing like never before  
Oh my soul  
I'll worship Your Holy name



**GOD IS FAITHFUL**

## Numbers 14:11

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them?’”