

REPORTS FROM THE PROMISED LAND

The Old Testament Today

Banska Bystrica, 26th March 2023

Numbers 13:1-2 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the people of Israel. From each tribe of their fathers you shall send a man, every one a chief among them."...

Numbers 13:21 So they went up and spied out the land from the wilderness of Zin to Rehob, near Lebo-hamath....

Numbers 13:26-33 And they came to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation of the people of Israel in the wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh. They brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. ²⁷ And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. ²⁸ However, the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. ²⁹ The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan." ³⁰ But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, for we are well able to overcome it." ³¹ Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are." ³² So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. ³³ And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

Numbers 14:1-4 Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. ² And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! ³ Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" ⁴ And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt." ...

Numbers 14:21-23 But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, ²³ shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it.

Numbers 14:27-45 "How long shall this wicked congregation grumble against me? I have heard the grumblings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against me. ²⁸ Say to them, 'As I live, declares the LORD, what you have said in my hearing I will do to you: ²⁹ your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me, ³⁰ not one shall come into the land where I swore that I would make you dwell, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. ³¹ But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected. ³² But as for you, your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness. ³³ And your children shall be shepherds in the wilderness forty years and shall suffer for your faithlessness, until the last of your dead bodies lies in the wilderness. ³⁴ According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, a year for each day, you shall bear your iniquity forty years, and you shall know my displeasure.' ³⁵ I, the LORD, have spoken. Surely this will I do to all this wicked congregation who are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall come to a full end, and there they shall die." ³⁶ And the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation grumble against him by bringing up a bad report about the land- ³⁷ the men who brought up a bad report of the land- died by plague before the LORD. ³⁸ Of those men who went to spy out the land, only Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh remained alive. ³⁹ When Moses told these words to all the people of Israel, the people mourned greatly. ⁴⁰ And they rose early in the morning and went up to the heights of the hill country, saying, "Here we are. We will go up to the place that the LORD has promised, for we have sinned." ⁴¹ But Moses said, "Why now are you transgressing the command of the LORD, when that will not succeed? ⁴² Do not go up, for the Lord is not among you, lest you be struck down before your enemies. ⁴³ For there the Amalekites and the Canaanites are facing you, and you shall fall by the sword. Because you have turned back from following the LORD, the LORD will not be with you." ⁴⁴ But they presumed to go up to the heights of the hill country, although neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed out of the camp. ⁴⁵ Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and defeated them and pursued them, even to Hormah.

Ταῦτα δὲ τύποι ἡμῶν ἐγενήθησαν, εἰς τὸ μὴ εἶναι ἡμᾶς ἐπιθυμητὰς κακῶν, καθὼς κάκεῖνοι ἐπεθύμησαν.

1Co 10:6 Now these things took place as

<p>Οὐ θέλω γὰρ ὑμᾶς ἀγνοεῖν, ἀδελφοί, ὅτι οἱ πατέρες ἡμῶν πάντες ὑπὸ τὴν νεφέλην ἦσαν καὶ πάντες διὰ τῆς θαλάσσης διήλθον ² καὶ πάντες εἰς τὸν Μωϋσῆν ἐβαπτίσθησαν ἐν τῇ νεφέλῃ καὶ ἐν τῇ θαλάσῃ</p>	<p>examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.</p> <p>1Cor 10:1-2 I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were <u>baptized</u> into Moses in the <u>cloud</u> and in the <u>sea</u>,</p>
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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. THE PROBLEMS AFTER

- Can the Christian life be without problems?
- → **Nu 14:21-22** But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, ²² none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice
 - “1. Ex 14:10-12 At the Red Sea where it seemed that Pharaoh’s army would destroy them
 - 2. Ex 15:22-24 At Marah where they found bitter water
 - 3. Ex 16:1-3 In the Desert of Sin as they hungered
 - 4. Ex 16:19-20 In the Desert of Sin as they paid no attention to Moses concerning the storing of the manna until the morning
 - 5. Ex 16:27-30 In the Desert of Sin as they disregarded Moses concerning the gathering of the manna on the seventh day
 - 6. Ex 17:1-4 At Rephidim as they complained for water
 - 7. Ex 32:1-35 At Mount Sinai as Aaron led the people in making the golden calf
 - 8. Nu 11:1-3 At Taberah where the people raged against the Lord
 - 9. Nu 11:4-34 At Kibroth Hattaavah in the grumbling provoked by the rabble for quail
 - 10. Nu 14:1-3 At Kadesh in the Desert of Paran when the people refused to receive the good report of Joshua and Caleb but rather wished themselves dead.”¹

¹ <https://www.biola.edu/blogs/good-book-blog/2014/what-is-meant-by-these-ten-times-in-numbers-14-20-23>

0.2. THE LIFE OF FAITH → THE LIFE OF FIGHT

- **1Tim 6:12** Fight the good fight of the faith (ἀγωνίζου τὸν καλὸν ἀγῶνα τῆς πίστεως).
- Enemies: **Eph 2:1-3** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of (1) this **world**, following the (2) **prince** of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience- ³ among whom we all once lived in (3) the passions of our **flesh**, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

0.3. TRAVELING HOME

- **Phi 3:20** ...our **citizenship is in heaven**... (ἡμῶν γὰρ τὸ πολίτευμα ἐν οὐρανοῖς ὑπάρχει),
 - [AUGUSTINE *Confessions*] ...you have made us for yourself and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in you (most secret and most truly present).
 - [AUGUSTINE *The City of God*] “We must **fly to our beloved fatherland**. (Fugiendum est igitur ad carissimam patriam,) There is the Father, there our all. What fleet or flight shall convey us thither? Our way is, to become like God.”
 - [AUGUSTINE *The City of God*] ...if **nearness** to God is measured by our **likeness**, then there is no other **distance from God than that of dissimilarity**; and the dissimilarity of man's soul to incorporeal, eternal, and immutable Being is measured by man's **lust for the things that change and pass with time**.
 - [LAIRD *Into the Silent Land*] “**God is our homeland**. And the homing instinct of the human being is homed on God.”
- [CHAMBERS] We start with the idea that **prosperity** or **happiness** or **morality** is the end of a man's existence; according to God, it is something other than any of these, viz., “**to glorify God and enjoy Him** for ever.” (*The Shadow of an Agony*)

0.4. THE PROMISED LAND

- [John WHITE *The Fight*] ...justification is both a **heavenly event** and a **time-space event**.
- → Heaven
 - → **Heb 4:8-9** For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,
- → A surrendered life
 - **Mt 11:28** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest**.
 - **Gal 5:25** If we **live** by the Spirit, let us also **walk** by the Spirit.
 - Giants → lusts; habits (“the strong man”) **Mark 3:27** But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house
 - Fortified cities → **2Cor 10:4-5** For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments ⁵ and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

1. EXIT AND ENTER

- Exodus → crossing the Red Sea
- Entrance → crossing Jordan

1.1. THE IMMEDIATE CHANGE

- in spiritual realm
- **Col 1:13** He has (1) **delivered us** from the domain of darkness and (2) **transferred us** to the kingdom of his beloved Son.

- **Rom 8:9** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

1.2. THE GRADUAL PROCESS

- in practical day-to-day Christian living
- **1Cor 3:1-2** But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. ² I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready...
- **Eph 4:15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ
- **1Pt 2:11** Dearly beloved, I beseech *you* as strangers and pilgrims (sojourners and exiles (ESV) παροίκους καὶ παρεπιδήμους), abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.
- → experiential literature (...)

2. SPIRITUAL EXPECTATIONS

- **Rom 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- **1Cor 1:30** He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.
- **2Cor 7:1** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2.1. A CRISIS (SERIES OF CRISES)

- “higher life” – “deeper life” – “victorious life” – “baptism with the Holy Spirit” – “second blessing” – “full gospel” – “entire sanctification” – “perfectionism” -
- negative reports: (10:2?) – pride! – hypocrisy! – legalism! – heresy!
- **Joshua 5:3-5** So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. ⁴ And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt. ⁵ Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised.
- **John 14:23** "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him

[CHAMBERS] Sanctification begins at regeneration, and goes on to a second great crisis, when God, upon an uttermost abandonment in consecration, bestows His gracious work of entire sanctification. The point of entire sanctification is reached not by the passing of the years but by obedience to the heavenly vision and through spiritual discipline. Spiritual degeneration, so keenly portrayed in the Epistle to the Hebrews, is brought about by weak and prolonged consecration, during which the soul degenerates completely. (*Christian Disciplines*).

[CHAMBERS] The process of sanctification begins at the moment of birth from above (rv mg) and is consummated on the unconditional surrender of my right to myself to Jesus Christ. The time that elapses between new birth and entire sanctification depends entirely on the individual. (*Conformed to His Image*).

- Dangers → waiting for new experience – from conference to conference...
- “HOORAAH!” sanctification → defeat upon defeat...
 - Wilkinson: *Prayer of Jabez*; (easy; quick; self-centred...) Google: The book became an international bestseller, topping the New York Times bestseller list and selling **nine million copies**.

2.2. A CONTINUOUS GROWTH (GRADUAL CHANGE)

- **Eph 4:11-14** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for **building up the body of Christ**, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children...
 [CHAMBERS] “. . . not as though I . . . were already **perfect**” (Philippians 3:12). “Let us therefore, as many as be **perfect** . . .” (Philippians 3:15). Nothing but wilful perversion would make anyone misunderstand these **two “perfections.”** In verse 12 Paul is speaking of the perfection of consummation not attainable in this life; in verse 15 he speaks of a perfection of fitness demanded now. “Remember, though you are perfectly adjusted to God, you have attained to nothing yet.” (*Conformed to His Image*)
- Dangers → mediocrity; → Heb 5 (no growth)

3. NEVER GIVE UP!

- “What do you want more than anything else in the world?” → **Psalm 42:1** As a deer pants for flowing streams, **so pants my soul for you, O God...**
- **Mt 24:12-13** And because lawlessness will be increased, **the love of many will grow cold.** ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
- **Ex 33:18** Please show me your glory”, Moses asked God...
- **Phil 3:12-14** Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

3.1. SURRENDER TO JESUS

- NOT “self-improvement” (Tolstoy)
- BUT “self-forgetting” in love for Jesus
 - **Phil 3:8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ** Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

[CHAMBERS] Paul’s whole personality was passionately devoted to Jesus—“that I may know Him.” As soon as that note dominates a personality everything is simplified. It is impossible for the natural man once born, to have a single motive. We know when the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts because of this **miracle of a single motive.** (*The Place of Help*)

3.2. BE PRACTICAL

- The four important decisions in youth: (1) school, (2) job, (3) partner, (4) residence
- Mind: imaginations, plans, leisure, ideals, dreams...
- Time management: prayer, study, friends,
- Careful with the media
 [HENDERSON *The Deeper Life*] In our world where well over 100 million apps are downloaded every year, we are confronted with options, ads, and invitations beyond human ability to fully grasp or comprehend, let alone keep up. We have become the consummate society of multitaskers and it’s apparently remapping our brains. One Stanford University professor concludes, “The neural circuits devoted to scanning, skimming, and multitasking are expanding and strengthening, while those used for reading and **thinking deeply**, with sustained concentration, are weakening or eroding.” He notes, “We have become suckers for irrelevancy.”
- Reading: A. W. Tozer *The Pursuit of God* (Nasledovanie Boha); *The Divine Conquest* (Podmaněň Bohem); *The Knowledge of the Holy*;

4. TO REMEMBER

- The great spiritual deliverance from the domain of darkness (Col 1:13) in Christian daily life is divided into two different realities: leaving the old worldly ways behind (“exodus”) and learning the new ways of the Kingdom (“entering the Promised Land”).
- Entering the Promised Land (sanctification) is both continuous growth and discontinuous series of crises of surrender.
- No matter how negatively the life in Christ may be described we have to pursue complete identification with Jesus in the Spirit here and now.