**Bible/College Class Notes – *Studies in The Old Testament* – Lesson 68**

**The Christian Pilgrimage – Pictures of Salvation and Heaven**

**This week** – We continue our lessons teaching us about how to live now, anticipating Heaven. **NOTES.**

**Joshua told the Israelites:**  “***If the Lord delight in us, then He will bring us into this land, and give it us.***” ***Numbers 14v8.***

**Let us learn from today’s lesson not to remain in unbelief and harden our hearts against God. There are severe eternal consequences for doing so. Remember Pharoah. Listen carefully.**

***“Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known My ways. So I sware in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest.” VA* Hebrews 3v8-11.**

**Pride and unbelief are the worst sins. Are you in danger of rejecting the love and mercy of God who offers you forgiveness through His Son’s substitutionary death on the cross? He is offering you a wonderful Christian life with eternal Heaven to come.**

**Today we will see that the Israelites Refuse to Enter The Promised Land of Canaan due to their Unbelief.**

**The Promised Land Is In Reach – About 100 miles.**

God told Moses that it was now time

for the Israelites to move into Canaan.

**2**

The next few days would test their faith and trust in God.

**They Had Every Reason to Trust The Lord. VA1-6**

Their wonderful release from slavery in Egypt,

Crossing the Red Sea and the defeat of Pharaoh.

God’s guidance (Pillar of Fire and Cloud),

Provision of food (Manna). & water in the desert.

A faithful Christian fully trusts the Lord and experiences God’s love, total freedom from sin and Satan.

**They Had Real Evidence**

**of a ‘Land Flowing with Milk and Honey’.**

**12 men,** one from each tribe, spied out the land of Canaan,

returning with huge and delicious fruit.

Great clusters of grapes, pomegranates,

proving the fertility of the land.

**But,** **10 men** reported that there were ‘giants’ in the land. Warriors who would fight them and overcome them.

 **They lived in strongly fortified walled cities.**

**Faithful Joshua and Caleb fully trusted in God.**

They believed that He would keep His promises.

Reported that God would help them conquer the land.

There were 600,000 Israelites capable of fighting.

***Yet ….***

The people would rather believe the frightening

and cowardly reports of the 10 spies

about the inhabitants of Canaan being ‘giants’,

ignoring God’s ability to keep them safe.

**VA1 Unbelief**

**Unbelief often hides behind feeble reasoning,**

and our blaming God to ‘hide’ our own sin.

**They criticised God, and Moses;**

**‘Our children are in danger’.**

They rejected God’s leaders

and preferred slavery in Egypt to God’s chosen way.

**3**

They were spiteful and critical of the Lord.

They rebelled against God and began to appoint leaders

to take them back to slavery in Egypt.

**Are we like them? We may be critical of them.**

**We live in a society today which will criticise God.**

 **Challenging us, ridiculing us,**

**tempting us to follow them in rejecting God.**

**To cause us to not believe in God.**

**Are we like them?**

**We also have so many reasons to believe in God**

 **and trust His Word of Truth.**

**Yet, we could allow the smallest doubt or accusation to squash our faith in God, and take us back**

**into the world and its’ sinful ways.**

**To live to please ourselves away from God,**

**and to ignore Him for the rest of our lives.**

 **Imagine what this means to God.**

 **Their resistance hurt Him because**

**they were His People. *“The apple of His eye.”***

**God loves us and wants us to love Him in return.**

**Could God have done more for us? VA**

**He has sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ**

**as a Perfect Man to die**

**to remove the guilt of our sin.**

**He is preparing our ‘Canaan’**

**– Heaven for us to enjoy for eternity.**

**Do you see His love, mercy, and grace in the Gospel?**

**Do you see His Power and Design in Creation**

**and in His sustaining life on earth?**

**Do you join in unbelief with the Evolutionists**

**in denying that He is Creator God?**

**Are you prejudiced against God?**

 **Refusing to believe He can save you?**

**4**

**There are serious consequences for unbelief.**

 **It is God’s Righteous and Holy anger. VA2**

**God’s Righteous Judgement of the Sin of Unbelief.**

Their questioning God’s power and ability

to keep His promises, meant

He had every right to abandon them in the desert,

leaving them to perish, alone.

Hell is a real and deserved judgment

to all who wilfully reject and question God.

**If we refuse God’s mercy and grace VA**

**and choose to live without Him,**

**then we deserve to die without Him,**

**and without hope of acceptance by Him.**

**We will be responsible for Him rejecting us.**

**Yet In Mercy and Love God Hears Moses’ Prayer.**

The unbelieving adults would spend

40 years in the desert and die –

**but** God kept His promise showing mercy and forgiveness when their children entered as adults.

**We live in a similar unbelieving, evil and heathen age,**

Where the majority reject God and live as they please.

**Yet,** in mercy God accepts Christ’s death to save us

from eternal Hell if we trust in Him alone.

**The People Continued in Proud Unbelief.**

**Despite God’s Mercy.**

Some still tried to fight the surrounding enemy

without seeking God’s help – **but they died.**

If we fight life’s battles without God, we will fail,

we too will end life and die without His forgiveness.

**5**

**Follow the Unswerving Faith VA3**

**of Two Exceptional Men - Joshua and Caleb.**

They fully believed that nothing was too difficult for God. They stood for the Lord and so He stood by them.

– they would enter Canaan with the next generation.

**However hard life may seem, trust the Lord fully.**

He will keep all His promises.

**Conclusion – We are either Against God or For Him.**

Will you be among those who pour scorn and unbelief

on God’s promise of His mercy and forgiveness?

- missing the eternal blessing of entering God’s Heaven.

**OR**,

will you believe, with repentance and faith in the Saviour Who died on Calvary to save sinners,

and has promised to take you through this life

into Eternal Glory?

**Do not miss the opportunity today of trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord.**

**Samuel wrote, *“Only fear* (respect) *the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things He hath done for you.***

***But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your King.” VA 1 Samuel 12v 24-25.***

**Important Question for us Today:**

**What is the worst sin? Is it murder?**

**No, it is unbelief in God.**

**Unbelief is the ‘mother of all sin’**

**- all other sins spring from it.**

**So where did unbelief come from?**

**6**

Unbelief came into the world through the rebellion of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden within a few days of God completing His wonderful creation.

God had set one rule.

They were not to eat of

***The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.***

In response to Satan’s challenge, ‘***Hath God Said?***

***Surely you will not die***

***if you eat of every tree of the garden’.***

Adam and Eve disbelieved God

and took of the forbidden Tree.

They immediately fell from innocent trust in God and now had unbelief in their hearts.

They were our representatives and so we inherit

that same unbelief in our fallen human nature.

**We all naturally say, ‘Hath God said?’**

We naturally reject what God says.

If we continue in this attitude of unbelief,

we will ignore His warnings of judgement

against our sin and will not believe His promises.

**Yet out of mercy He will forgive the repentant sinner.**

**1 John 1v9-10. *VA* “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”**