

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

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

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

**Bible Readings for this week:**

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Numbers 13v17-33 (12 Spies sent into Canaan)	
Monday	Numbers 14v1-19 (The people refuse to trust God)	
Tuesday	Numbers 14v20-35 (Their unbelief judged by God)	
Wednesday	Numbers 14v36-45 (Disobedience punished by God)	
Thursday	Hebrews 3v1-19 (Unbelief stops entry to Heaven)	
Friday	Deuteronomy 1v1-24 (Moses speaks 40 years on)	
Saturday	Deuteronomy 1v25-46 (Faithful Caleb and Joshua)	

**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? 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. See **1 John 1v8-10**.

**Hymn 507 - reminding us that a Christian need fear nothing because Almighty God cares for them.**

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| 1. Be still, my heart! All anxious cares<br>Are hindrances, and thorns and snares;<br>They cast dishonour on my Lord,<br>And contradict His gracious Word. | 3. When first before His mercy-seat<br>My all to Him I did commit,<br>He gave me warrant from that hour<br>To trust His wisdom, love and power. |
| 2. Brought safely by His hand thus far,<br>Why should I now give place to fear?<br>How can I want if He provide,<br>Or lose my way with such a Guide?      | 5. He Who has helped me hitherto<br>Will help me all my journey through,<br>And give me daily cause to raise<br>New Ebenezer’s* to His praise.  |

Ebenezer’s\* ‘Hitherto hath the Lord helped us’, 1 Samuel 7v12.

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

**The Israelites Refuse to Enter, Due to 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.
  - The next few days would test their faith and trust in God.
  - **They Had Every Reason to Trust The Lord.**
    - 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 & water.
    - A faithful Christian experiences God’s love, total freedom from sin and Satan.
  - **They Had Real Evidence of a ‘Land Flowing with Milk and Honey’.**
    - 12 men spied out the land of Canaan, returning with huge and delicious fruit.
    - Faithful Joshua and Caleb reported that God would help them conquer the land.
  - **Yet ....**
    - The people would rather believe the frightening and cowardly reports of the 10 spies about inhabitants being ‘giants’, ignoring God’s ability to keep them safe.
    - They criticised God, and Moses; **‘Our children are in danger’**. Unbelief often hides behind feeble reasoning, and our blaming God to ‘hide’ our own sin.
    - They rejected God’s leaders and preferred slavery in Egypt to God’s chosen way.
  - **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.
  - **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.
    - In mercy God accepts Christ’s death to save us from Hell if we trust in Him alone.
  - **The People Continued In Unbelief Despite God’s Mercy.**
    - Some still tried to fight the surrounding enemy without God’s help – but they died.
    - If we fight life’s battles without God, we too will end life without His forgiveness.
  - **Follow the Unswerving Faith 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?

Samuel wrote, **“Only fear 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.”**  
 1 Samuel 12v 24-25.