

THE RESTORED CHURCH OF GOD

# CHILDREN'S BIBLE LESSONS



Rebellion in the Wilderness



LEVEL 3  
LESSON 7

# Rebellion in the Wilderness

**I**n the previous Lesson, we learned that Israel agreed to be obedient to all that God commanded. They “signed” the covenant with the blood of animal sacrifices. However, the people quickly broke their promise. They erected a golden calf and worshiped it while Moses was atop Mount Sinai. Aaron offered excuses for why he allowed this to happen. But these excuses were not enough—3,000 men had to be put to death for this sin.

## Numbering the Israelites

At the beginning of the second year since Israel had come out of Egypt, God spoke to Moses inside the Tabernacle of Meeting. He said, “Take a census of all the men of the congregation of Israel—all who are able to go to war. But only those who are at least 20 years old shall be counted. Be

sure to take one person from each tribe with you.”

Moses did as God commanded him. He assembled all the tribes of Israel together. Here is a breakdown of how many men were reported from each tribe: Reuben reported 46,500; Simeon reported 59,300; Gad reported 45,650; Judah reported 74,600; Issachar reported 54,400; Zebulun reported 57,440; Joseph reported 40,500; Manasseh reported 32,200; Benjamin reported 35,400; Dan reported 62,700; Asher reported 41,500; Naphtali reported 53,400. The total number of those counted for war was 603,550 men. Imagine all those people!

Notice that Moses did not count the men of the tribe of Levi. God had other plans for this tribe. He appointed them to take care of the Tabernacle of Meeting. They were to care for all its

furnishings and camp around it. God said, “When the tabernacle is moved, the Levites shall take it down, move it, and then set it up. They are in charge of it. Outsiders shall not come near it; if they do, they shall be put to death. Each tribe shall camp near its own emblem, but the Levites must camp near My tabernacle.”

### Grumbling in the Wilderness

After some time, the Israelites left the Wilderness of Sinai, and eventually came to the Wilderness of Paran. There, the people began to complain about the living conditions and lack of food. This greatly displeased God, so He destroyed some of those living in the outskirts of the camp.

But even after this incident, more people complained once again! They said, “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember and long for all the food—the fish, cucumbers, melons,

leeks, onions and garlic—that we ate while we were in Egypt. But all that we have to eat now is manna! We are tired of this!”

Moses heard all this grumbling, and was greatly displeased. Feeling frustrated, he said to God, “Why are You afflicting me? Where am I to get food

for all these people? I am not able to handle the demands of the people by myself.”

God heard Moses’ cry, and said, “Gather 70 men from among the Israelites and bring them to the Tabernacle of Meeting. I will consecrate them as leaders under your

command. They will help you.

“As for the people of Israel, I will indeed give them meat. I will give them more meat than they can handle. They shall not eat it for just 1 day, 2 days, 5 days, 10 days or 20 days. They shall eat it for an entire month, until it comes out of their nostrils and becomes disgusting to them!”





Moses had trouble believing that God would be able to do this. “There are over 600,000 men!” he said. How are You going to feed all of them? Are You going to slaughter all our livestock, or kill all the fish of sea?”

Turn to Numbers 11:23 and write down what God replied to Moses.

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God showed Israel His awesome power by sending out a great wind that brought tens of thousands of quail (birds) from the sea. The pile of quail

was about two feet high—as far as the eye could see! For the entire day, night and the next day, the people stayed up and gathered the quail. The least amount gathered by a single person was 1,000 gallons. This may have been as much as 8,000 lbs of quail per person! Surely, each person did not need this much.

This greed and overindulgence angered God, so He struck the people with a plague. Many died. The place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, which means “Graves of Craving.”

From there, the people moved to Hazeroth and camped. Then Aaron and his sister Miriam spoke against Moses, because he had married an Ethiopian woman. They said, “Has God spoken through Moses only?



Has He not spoken through us as well?"

In other words, Miriam and Aaron were tired of Moses ruling over them. They thought that they should be in charge, instead of him. God heard their rebellious words and burned with righteous fury.

Suddenly, God said to Moses, "You three, come out to the Tabernacle of Meeting!" In the pillar of a cloud, God stood in the doorway, and told Miriam and Aaron to come forward. Turn to Numbers 12:6-8 and write down what God said to them.

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After God departed from the tabernacle, Miriam became leprous. Her skin was flaking and as white as snow. Aaron begged Moses to pray that God would forgive them of their sin of rebellion, and heal Miriam. Moses did so, and God healed her after a seven day wait.

God takes rebellion seriously. He expects His people to obey those He has set in positions of authority. Today, this can be applied to God's government within His Church. God demands that we obey the people within that government as if *He* were directly leading us. In a future lesson, we will see that God viewed Israel's rejection of Samuel as ruler over them as rejecting Himself as ruler.

### Test Your Memory:

1) What was the minimum age of Israelite men who were able to go to war? \_\_\_\_\_

2) Why did Moses not count the tribe of Levi? \_\_\_\_\_

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3) Why were 70 men gathered from the tribes of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

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to the people of Israel.”

Moses chose 12 leaders and sent them on this mission. He said, “See whether the people who dwell in the land are strong or weak, few or many. See whether the land they dwell in is good or bad, and whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or fortified. Be coura-

geous! And bring back some fruit of the land.”

The 12 men embarked on their journey. They spied out various lands and cities. When they came to the Valley of Eshcol, they cut down a branch that had one cluster of grapes on it. The spies also gathered some pomegranates and figs. (Remember, Moses told them to bring back some fruit with them.)

After 40 days had passed, the spies returned from their mission. They told everyone that the land is wonderful, that it flows with milk and honey. “However,” they said, “The people who live there are big and

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4) What does Kibroth Hattaavah mean?\_\_\_\_\_

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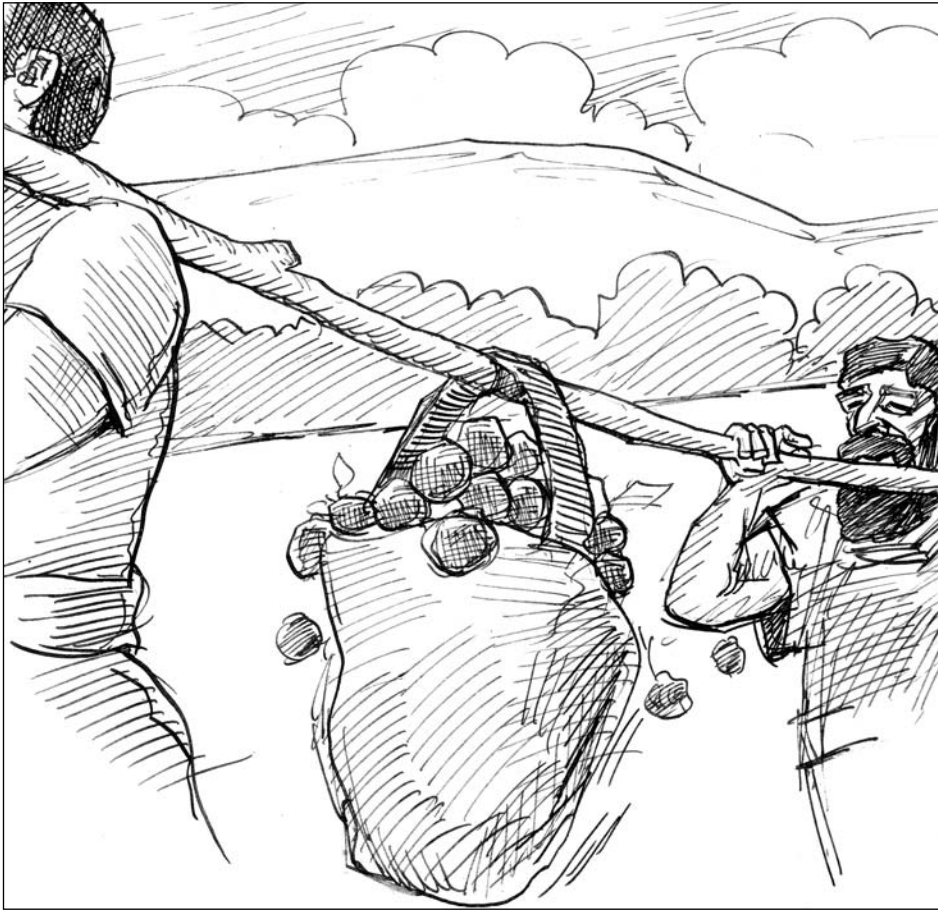
5) Why did God strike Miriam with leprosy?\_\_\_\_\_

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### **Spying Out the Land**

Before Israel could enter the Promised Land, they needed to scout it out. God told Moses, “Send one man from each tribe to spy out the land of Canaan. This is the land that I am going to give





died in Egypt or in the wilderness!” they said. “Why did God bring us here to die by the sword? It would be better for us to return to Egypt. Let’s select a new leader to lead us back to Egypt!”

Caleb and Joshua thought differently than everyone else. They told the people that the land they spied out is “an exceedingly good land,” and that God will surely bring them into it. They

strong. And the cities are large and fortified.” Turn to Numbers 13:30 and write down what Caleb (one of the spies) said in response. \_\_\_\_\_

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But the other men said, “We’re not going to go and fight them. They are too big and strong. We are like grasshoppers in their sight.”

This news from the spies brought great sadness to the people of Israel. They all cried and complained—once again!—to Moses. “If only we had

warned everyone not to rebel against God.

But the people did not like what Joshua and Caleb had to say. The congregation of Israel wanted to stone them!

Then God appeared in the Tabernacle of Meeting, in front of all Israel. He was quite angry! He told Moses that He was going to destroy Israel and make a great nation from his descendants. But Moses interceded on behalf of Israel and asked God not to do that. God replied, “I have pardoned the people of Israel according to your word. However, those who complained against Me shall not see the land that I



must learn to trust in Him no matter what, even when things seem impossible. Never doubt the abilities of the living God.

### **Korah's Rebellion**

After some time had passed, Korah and three other men (Dathan, Abiram

promised to give. I told them that I would give them a land flowing with milk and honey, but they did not believe Me. They shall all die here in the wilderness as punishment for their unbelief. Then after 40 years, their offspring shall go and inherit the land.”

When Moses told the people what God was going to do, they mourned greatly. The next morning, they changed their minds and said they would now go and take the land. Moses warned against this. He said that they would be defeated because God was not with them. But the people did not listen to Moses. They attacked and were defeated by the Amalekites and the Canaanites.

God wants us to believe what He says He will do. He takes no pleasure in those who doubt His promises. You

and On) gathered hundreds of leaders from among the Israelites. These men felt that Moses was taking too much leadership to himself. They said, “Who are you to take so much power upon yourself? Why do you exalt yourself above everyone else? The entire congregation of Israel is holy, not just you!”

Moses fell to his face, and said to Korah and his cronies, “You should be grateful to be serving in the way that God has appointed. Why do you seek to take more upon yourselves? Don’t you realize that you are all gathered against God? Tomorrow morning, God will show us His will in this matter.”

Then Moses called for Dathan and Abiram. But they said that they will not come to him. “This is unfair! You





brought us out of Egypt, a land flowing with milk and honey, so that you can kill us in the wilderness. Who are you to rule us? Further, you did not bring us to a land flowing with milk and honey as you promised us.” This angered Moses greatly. He asked that God not accept their offerings.

The next day, Korah and his followers gathered at the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting. Suddenly, the glory of God appeared. He told Moses and Aaron to separate themselves from the rest of the people. God was very angry! He said He was going to consume the rebels!





Moses told the people of Israel to depart from the tents of Korah and company. He said, “If the earth opens up and swallows these wicked men, then you will know that they have rejected God.” And so it happened, the earth opened up and swallowed some of the men. Others were consumed by fire from God.

The next day, the people of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron. They said, “You have killed God’s people.” Amazing! The people actually believed that Moses killed the people, even though they knew that he did not open the ground. God did!

This angered God. He told Moses and Aaron to move away from the people so that He can consume them. So Moses rushed to make atonement for the people by running through the congregation with a censer. The plague stopped. However, 14,700 people died that day, due to the sin of rebellion.

The stories of ancient Israel constantly rebelling were written for our learning. We need to be aware of the spirit of rebellion that is within all of us. For example, your parents are in

charge of you. Do you realize that if you rebel against them, you are rebelling against God? Try to remember this. God blesses those who are obedient to those in authority.

### **Test Your Memory:**

1) How many men were chosen to spy out the Promised Land?\_\_\_\_\_

2) What did the spies tell the people when they returned from their mission? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) What did the people want to do to Joshua and Caleb?\_\_\_\_\_

4) Why did Korah and his cronies confront Moses?\_\_\_\_\_

5) How many people died due to the sin of rebellion?\_\_\_\_\_



**BIBLE MEMORY:** Numbers 14:8

# WORD SEARCH

Find each word from the list below in the puzzle. The words may be found in any direction except diagonal. Be sure to check off each word as you find it.

**JOSHUA**

**CALEB**

**MOSES**

**KORAH**

**DATHAN**

**ABIRAM**

**ON**

**MIRIAM**

**QUAIL**

**GRAPES**

**SPIES**

**WILDERNESS**

**REBELLION**

W	I	L	D	E	R	N	E	S	S
S	G	R	A	P	E	S	N	P	P
H	H	U	A	C	T	V	S	B	I
K	A	W	U	A	M	J	K	Z	E
Q	U	A	I	L	I	W	O	B	S
Y	H	J	N	E	R	T	R	B	P
M	S	H	A	B	I	R	A	M	Q
Q	O	G	H	D	A	T	H	A	N
V	J	V	P	Z	M	O	S	E	S
R	E	B	E	L	L	I	O	N	X