

The Pilgrimage of the First Generation of Israelite Believers: A Picture of Great Hope and Tragic Failure Deuteronomy 01: 06–46

1. *God's call and charge to break camp; leave Sinai; move on and lay claim to the promised land:*

- a. Was a great land
 - 1) Arabah: Jordan Valley
 - 2) The central mountains
 - 3) The western foothills
 - 4) South: The Negev
 - 5) West: The sea coast
 - 6) North: Canaanite land and Lebanon to the Euphrates
- b. Was promised to Abraham and all his descendants:
(Gen 12:1-3, 7; see Rom 4:11-13, 16; Gal 3:6-9)

2. *Remember the provision of leaders and of justice*

- a. The need for leaders
 - 1) The explosive population growth necessitated leaders
 - 2) The constant prayer for continued population growth necessitated leaders
 - 3) The weight of leadership was too heavy for Moses to bear alone (v. 9, 12)
- b. The appointment and qualifications of the leaders
 - 1) To have wisdom and understanding and to be respected

- 6 The LORD our God said to us at Horeb, “You have stayed long enough at this mountain.
- 7 Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighbouring peoples in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates.
- 8 See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land the LORD swore he would give to your fathers — to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — and to their descendants after them.”
- 9 At that time I said to you, “You are too heavy a burden for me to carry alone.
- 10 The LORD your God has increased your numbers so that today you are as numerous as the stars in the sky.
- 11 May the LORD, the God of your ancestors, increase you a thousand times and bless you as he has promised!
- 12 But how can I bear your problems and your burdens and your disputes all by myself?
- 13 Choose some wise, understanding and respected men from each of your tribes, and I will set them over you.”

<p>2) To represent each tribe</p> <p>c. The organizational structure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The people were broken down into groups of thousands, hundreds, and tens 2) Some leaders were to serve as commanders and tribal leaders 3) Other leaders were to serve as judges <p>d. The special charge to execute justice</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To judge fairly: Even between a brother and a foreigner 2) To show impartiality: Equal justice for all 3) To fear no person: One is accountable only to God 4) To refer difficult cases to the chief judge, Moses himself <p>3. <i>The terrible sins that kept the first generation of Israelites out of the promised land: Fear, unbelief, grumbling, rebellion</i></p> <p>a. The people started out obeying God: Marched through a vast, terrible desert or wilderness (150 miles) to Kadesh Barnea</p> <p>b. The people were given the privilege of seeing the promised land: Had reached the border</p> <p>c. The people were challenged</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To arise, go up and take possession of the land 2) Not to fear nor be discouraged 	<p>14 You answered me, “What you propose to do is good.”</p> <p>15 So I took the leading men of your tribes, wise and respected men, and appointed them to have authority over you — as commanders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties and of tens and as tribal officials.</p> <p>16 And I charged your judges at that time, “Hear the disputes between your people and judge fairly, whether the case is between two Israelites or between an Israelite and a foreigner residing among you.</p> <p>17 Do not show partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be afraid of anyone, for judgment belongs to God. Bring me any case too hard for you, and I will hear it.”</p> <p>18 And at that time I told you everything you were to do.</p> <p>19 Then, as the LORD our God commanded us, we set out from Horeb and went toward the hill country of the Amorites through all that vast and dreadful wilderness that you have seen, and so we reached Kadesh Barnea.</p> <p>20 Then I said to you, “You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us.</p> <p>21 See, the LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”</p>
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<p>d. The people shut their ears to the exhortation — allowed fear and unbelief to take a foothold: Insisted that spies be sent to spy out the land</p> <p>1) Moses agreed to the idea: Sent 12 spies, one from each tribe</p> <p>2) The spies carried out their mission in the hill country and the Valley of Eshcol</p> <p>3) The spies returned with samples of fruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported that the land was good • Reported that the enemies were too strong (v. 28) <p>e. The people became gripped with fear and unbelief, and they rebelled against God</p> <p>1) Grumbled in their tents: Blaming God for their circumstances</p> <p>2) Lost heart because of the spies' negative report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The enemy was stronger and taller • The cities were fortified • The Anak (giants) were there <p>f. The people again were exhorted by Moses</p> <p>1) Not to be terrified nor tear</p> <p>2) To trust God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He would lead them and fight for them: Just as He had in Egypt and in the desert 	<p>22 Then all of you came to me and said, “Let us send men ahead to spy out the land for us and bring back a report about the route we are to take and the towns we will come to.”</p> <p>23 The idea seemed good to me; so I selected twelve of you, one man from each tribe.</p> <p>24 They left and went up into the hill country, and came to the Valley of Eshcol and explored it.</p> <p>25 Taking with them some of the fruit of the land, they brought it down to us and reported, “It is a good land that the LORD our God is giving us.”</p> <p>26 But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God.</p> <p>27 You grumbled in your tents and said, “The LORD hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us.</p> <p>28 Where can we go? Our brothers have made our hearts melt in fear. They say, ‘The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky. We even saw the Anakites there.’ ”</p> <p>29 Then I said to you, “Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them.</p> <p>30 The LORD your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes,</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He would carry them as a father carries his son g. The people again rejected the exhortation: Were gripped by unbelief — did not trust God — did not trust His guidance, the guidance of the cloud by day nor the fiery cloud by night h. The response of the LORD: Anger and judgment 1) The people of the first generation were not allowed to enter the promised land 2) Caleb, who believed and followed the LORD, was given an inheritance in the promised land 3) Moses was barred from the promised land (Num 20:1-13) 4) Joshua was to enter the promised land: To be encouraged, for he was to replace Moses as leader 5) The children of the disobedient parents — the second generation of believers — were to enter the promised land and possess it 4. <i>The incomplete confession, the disobedience of the first generation</i> a. The charge to turn around 	<p>31 and in the wilderness. There you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.”</p> <p>32 In spite of this, you did not trust in the LORD your God,</p> <p>33 who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go.</p> <p>34 When the LORD heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore:</p> <p>35 “No one from this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your ancestors,</p> <p>36 except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the LORD wholeheartedly.”</p> <p>37 Because of you the LORD became angry with me also and said, “You shall not enter it, either.</p> <p>38 But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it. Encourage him, because he will lead Israel to inherit it.</p> <p>39 And the little ones that you said would be taken captive, your children who do not yet know good from bad — they will enter the land. I will give it to them and they will take possession of it.</p> <p>40 But as for you, turn around and set out toward the desert along the route to the Red Sea.”</p>
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<p>b. The incomplete and false confession: Confessed but did not repent</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mobilized to fight in their own strength 2) Mobilized without God's presence <p>c. The warning of God: Must not fight — without His presence they would be defeated</p> <p>d. The refusal to listen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Showed continued disobedience and rebellion 2) Marched into the land of the Amorites <p>e. The result: Soundly defeated</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Were routed 2) Were driven down to Hormah (about 50 miles) <p>f. The false confession again seen in the people: Wept because of their defeat not because of their disobedience</p> <p>g. The wilderness wandering around Kadesh Barnea: For 38 years</p>	<p>41 Then you replied, “We have sinned against the LORD. We will go up and fight, as the LORD our God commanded us.” So every one of you put on his weapons, thinking it easy to go up into the hill country.</p> <p>42 But the LORD said to me, “Tell them, ‘Do not go up and fight, because I will not be with you. You will be defeated by your enemies.’ ”</p> <p>43 So I told you, but you would not listen. You rebelled against the LORD's command and in your arrogance you marched up into the hill country.</p> <p>44 The Amorites who lived in those hills came out against you; they chased you like a swarm of bees and beat you down from Seir all the way to Hormah.</p> <p>45 You came back and wept before the LORD, but he paid no attention to your weeping and turned a deaf ear to you.</p> <p>46 And so you stayed in Kadesh many days — all the time you spent there.</p>
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