

Number 13, 14

SUBJECT: The Bitter  
Disappointment

93/59

GF

Numbers 13, 14

## THE BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT

12:16 from Hazeri'oth through the wilderness  
of Paran to Kadesh. The longest, wearisome  
of the route. Moses spoke of it afterwards Num. 1: 19  
But at least to Kadesh-Barnea, on the very  
border of the Promised Land. How welcome the  
sight! welcome as the land lay to Columbus.

13: 2 ; Num. 1: 20, 21 His hopes.

As he said these words, must have breathed a  
deep sigh of relief. The task almost finished; the battle  
about over; the way almost won. Now, in the next  
act possession of the promised land, settle down, and  
under his vine and fig tree - brooks, water - no more  
the pitching, striking, tents, setting the water, perpetual  
wandering.

God had graciously visited upon him the weary  
journeys of the 40 years that were to succeed. No  
idea of them. None entered his calculations. None  
dreamed into what he would lead the people into their  
promised possession.

[of God graciously hidden  
from our faces the disappointments of the future,  
but we tread beneath them.]

13: 21-33 the search, reports of the spies.

NOTE } 13: 28 "the cities ..."  
} Deut. 1: 28 "the cities ... " } difficult to  
} } discouraging

14: 1-5 the heartbreak

14: 4 the bitterness, unachieved hope in his life  
Once before they proposed to take a covenant, but that  
when he was away, they thought his dead. This is his  
very presence. The people he loved; their very existence  
due to his intrusion.

14: 5 "he fell on his face" before all the assembly,  
what magnificent agony. The crucifixion of his  
dreams. The shadows over all his hopes.

14: 25 the sentence.

[ So we - almost in reach of our dream,  
long cherished hopes. Within a day's march,  
already reached the frontier. Tired people?  
Exhausted! Then 14: 25 ]



14: 11 - 20 God's proposal, making him the  
great nation.

Moses' impression - not accept at  
the cost of God's glory (14: 13-16), and at the cost of  
the lives of the people (14: 15, 19). Once again  
he trembles from the throne, choosing to suffer  
affliction with the people of God.

4: 40 - 45 Accepting the sentence

The people, when heard the 40 years, they answered,  
rose up. "Yes, we will go up..."

Moses (14: 44) meekly bowed his head.

The passing years - the growing realization,  
the true rest not in of earthly Canaan but  
in the city of God. Not in the transient moment  
of that life. So God breaks up our earthly  
dreams, bread, solitary, that as pilgrims  
we may seek for the city which hath foundations...