



Hunger For Truth

June 1, 2013

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HUNGER FOR TRUTH
MINISTRIES

Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:2
“Let us Hunger For Truth”

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It is our desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

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Please Note: In the May 15, 2013 issue of H.F.T. the date of Bro. Bill Behrens victory graduation was incorrect. It should have read Wednesday May 1, 2013. We are sorry for this mistake.

Ten

By: Bro. Andrew Lacroix

Text: Numbers 14:21-22

We all know how patient and longsuffering the Lord God is. This country, which was founded upon beliefs and truths found in His very written Word, has turned its back on Him, and we have been reaping what we have sown (cf. Gal. 6:7). It sometimes seems like not even a month or two now can go by without a mass shooting someplace or some other calamity. The citizens of the country wonder why. The government thinks they have all the answers, but they cannot even agree on what to do in response. The liberals in our nation's capital and our state capital hubs have yet to come to terms with the financial collapse that is fairly certain and fairly imminent if things continue the way they do. To further compound their battle, their response to some

national tragedies is to wage war on the Second Amendment, not the people who use guns illegally. How many people in this country register and legally own their firearms: "lose their mind" and proceed to execute such horrible actions? Very few if any. It is the people that obtain firearms or other devices aimed at killing innocent men, women and children illegally and illegally utilize them that cause all the problems. Two men slipped through the cracks of a watchlist and were not picked up again until mere days after the recent Boston Marathon bombings. A shooting in the DC area injured many not too long ago. We are mere months removed from Newtown. We are approaching the one year anniversary of the Aurora incident. People look to blame someone else for any such tragedy, and lately, people have more and more so blamed God. They may not admit it on-air to the liberal media hounds, but in private conversations, they question where God is and in so doing they blaspheme Him. Next time we even begin to look to blame God for a calamity such as any one that has happened recently or even a long time ago, take a good long look in the mirror. We are in such sordid shape in this country that there is nothing wholesome on cable television anymore. Sin is promoted at such an alarming rate and we are going down quick if we don't repent and turn to God. How much longer will God be patient with us? This nation is fast approaching the 237th anniversary of its independence from tyranny. This country has been blessed by God for many of its standards for quite some time, but over the last number of decades we have spiraled downhill as we slip closer and closer to God's judgment on this nation.

The Israelites were a people set apart by God to be salt and light to the pagan nations surrounding them. They were given so much and they turned their back on Him too. God showed them great patience in dealing with them on their journey to the Promised Land. He only dealt with their rebellion just so long before His chastising hand came down. They as well reaped what they sowed, and it cost them dearly.

So why is this devotional entitled "Ten"? It comes from our text in v.22. The nation had tempted the Lord over ten times, but He specifically said ten and told Moses to write ten when he penned Numbers 14:22. This is not the only use of the number "ten" in Scripture. In this article, I would like to share with you what God has laid upon my heart regarding these five Old Testament occasions that end up utilizing the number "ten":

I. Ten Miraculous Plagues Upon Egypt (Ex. 7:14-12:51). Much of this section really ought to be a review for a lot of us, but if some of this is new, then praise the Lord! I will give additional commentary when it is necessary. These plagues were allowed by God to finally enable His people, who were forced into hard labor by Pharaoh, to be freed so they could serve Him. This was just a few centuries removed from the testimony of Joseph and other prior Pharaohs who perhaps knew the Lord through the testimony of Joseph. That was why they were here in the first place, because of the severe famine in the land (last few chapters of Genesis).

A. Water Becomes Blood (7:14-25). God knew that Pharaoh was using His people as slaves and that he would not let them leave. This was free labor, so his people wouldn't have to work. So, to show Pharaoh that God meant business, He asked Moses to stretch forth his rod over the great Nile River, that all the water in Egypt (not just the Nile, but all of the lakes, rivers, and ponds) would turn as blood. This may or may not have actually been real blood, but it could have been, and even if it wasn't, it still served a purpose. God still knew that it would turn Egypt off from drinking from it as long as it looked like blood. This miraculous event made the water undrinkable. The water also produced a powerful stench and it furthermore killed all the marine creatures that reside in the water. The idea was that all of these plagues, this one included, would strike Egypt as being something one or more of their many gods (note the lowercase "g" used here) could not resolve, and that they would see this, repent, and return to the God of the Bible and let His people serve Him freely, out of their bondage, in the wilderness (little did Moses know the journey he was in for!) Now, while their gods might not have been able to undertake for them, Pharaoh's magicians were successful in reproducing this plague similarly. This proves that the Devil has power too. He doesn't have infinite power, like God does, and he can't be everywhere at once like God can be (that's why he spends all his time in Washington DC), but he can use people or whatever he wants to undermine God, His Word, Christians, or make someone blind to the things of God. That is why he is currently "the god of this world" (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4). He also masquerades as "an angel of light" (cf. 2 Cor. 11:14). That's why we as Christians need to be: "sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). Paul also commented on Satan using people when he mentioned Jannes and Jambres, who as tradition has it, were the two (or just two of) magicians who withstood Moses and gave Pharaoh another reason to harden his heart (cf. 2 Tim. 3:8). Furthermore not only did Pharaoh not harken to the Lord, he hardened his heart and shrugged this off as if it was

but nothing. The plague lasted seven days.

B. **One That Went to the Frogs** (8:1-15). The same river that had been plagued with blood was now to bring forth frogs which would swarm all the people and households of the land of Egypt. Henry Morris, the founder of the Institute for Creation Research and a born-again Christian, conjectured: "It is possible that the poisoned waters caused a multiplication of frogs in the river's marshes and pools, which then emerged to infest the land." Once again, though, Jannes and Jambres, the magicians at Pharaoh's disposal, were able to duplicate this event. Pharaoh seems to indicate a change of heart and asks Moses and Aaron to call off the frog infestation and he'd let Israel go. The frogs are amphibious creatures and are cold-blooded, so in the heat of the day they died. The Lord had responded to the prayer of Moses (v.12). When Pharaoh saw this respite, he changed his mind again and declined to let Israel go.

C. **A Lice Attack** (8:16-19). This plague came without warning from Moses to Pharaoh of its contents and nature, unlike the first two. All the dust that was in the land became lice, or little gnats, which then proceeded all over Egypt and its people and animals. This time Jannes and Jambres could not reciprocate the act, and were thereby forced to give God the rightful credit for this marvelous doing. Pharaoh was less than pleased when he heard that out of the magicians' mouths, and so he refused to let Israel go. Satan does not have unlimited power, as this act could not be duplicated by men who are serving his purpose, whether or not they actually know it.

D. **A "Fly-By"** (8:20-32). Pharaoh is warned of the fourth plague, which is to come the very next day, but this time, note this difference: "And I will put a division between my people and thy people..." (v.23). God was protecting His people from these very plagues. Now did He protect them from the first three? It doesn't say so in Scripture, but I believe the area in which they inhabited was spared from the water issues, the frogs, and the lice. This was the Lord directly targeting Egypt only, not the land of which part Israel dwelt in. They had a large plot of land that the Lord had to protect then while inflicting the remainder of the land with each specific plague. This is something that the Lord can do and still chooses to do today. After the damage is done, Pharaoh wants this called off, but Moses declines, saying that what they needed to do in front of God would cause the Egyptians to stone them. Thus, they needed to go far away, at least three days' journey worth, before they could sacrifice to God. Pharaoh was willing to let them be on a "short leash". Moses warns Pharaoh further not to deceitfully keep the people from their sacrifices to God. The plague is stayed, but yet so are the Israelites.

E. **The Death of Field Animals** (9:1-7). The Lord sent a "very grievous murrain" upon the cattle and other field animals of Egypt. Again, the Lord said there was a difference between the cattle of Egypt and the ones of His chosen people. None of the Israelites' cattle would perish. It was miraculous events like these and others that caused the psalmist to say: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance." (Ps. 33:12) Egypt was, at one time, quite close to God, but that was a long time ago and they were now deep in rebellion.

F. **Reaching a Boiling Point** (9:8-12). The sixth plague came without warning, and grievous sores would plague the people of Egypt, but not those in Israel. Not even Jannes and Jambres and any of their "tricks" could heal themselves or others for that matter. This plague is one that will somewhat revisit the world in the Tribulation (cf. Rev. 16:1-2), in that the mark of the Beast will cause a pain similar to what these boils did to Egypt. Note v.12. This time, the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart. A refusal to allow God into your heart, lost one, will not only cause more grief, but eventually will leave you with no opportunity to be saved. This is tragic but yet all the sinner's fault. The Lord shows great longsuffering, but it only lasts so long, so if you feel God moving in your heart, respond while there is still time and hope for your soul.

G. **A Hailstorm** (9:13-35). This was certainly the greatest meteorological phenomena Egypt would ever endure. However, something was different here. Note v. 20-21. While certainly Pharaoh didn't believe, some of his very own servants had seen enough to believe God was for real, and moved their cattle and servants to safety. Those who refused to believe would pay the price. The Israelites got to see this from afar, as they were spared (v.26). Pharaoh again pleads with Moses to stay the hailstorm, and he does so, with this accompanying warning: "But as for thee and thy servants, I know that ye will not yet fear the Lord God" (v.30). Moses was reminded by the Lord why this was happening. Pharaoh could not bring himself yet to the point of humility, but one day it would happen. The billions of people in this world and all who died without Christ as

Saviour will one day bend the knee, and acknowledge Him as Lord. It will be too late for them, so knowing this, dear person, if you haven't done so already, why tarry? Bow the knee, confess your sin, accept His payment, and declare Him your Saviour.

H. Locusts to Destroy What the Hail Didn't (10:1-20). The Lord again reiterates to Moses that He "hardened (Pharaoh's) heart" (v.1). Pharaoh had seen all these miraculous plagues and he had said no to God seven times already, so now God was rejecting him. The eighth plague would destroy whatever vegetation was spared following the hailstorm. Again, this was to prove to Egypt that their gods were useless and utter failures while the Lord God was Omnipotent and Omniscient. In verse seven Pharaoh's servants turn against him, having witnessed the hand of the Lord upon them. Pharaoh starts to incline a slight turning of his heart, but God, knowing His work must be done and Pharaoh needing to be fully convicted of his need to let Israel go, still commands Moses to bring this plague upon Egypt.

I. Utter Darkness (10:21-29). The Lord then plagued Egypt with a three day darkness, while His children had light. Pharaoh quickly tried to usher the people of God out, but got greedy, and requested that the animals of the Israelites remain in Egypt. Moses said that the animals were necessary for the institution of the Sacrificial System, and Pharaoh changed his mind again. The Lord hardens his heart, and Israel remains in the land.

J. Pharaoh's Tragedy (11:1-12:51). This is the Passover, where all who didn't oblige to God's rules of the blood lost their firstborn son. Pharaoh was, of course, subject to this, and finally he let them go completely. They were to take everything with them, lest they feared all their lives extinguished at the hand of God. Sometimes, it may take a personal tragedy to bring one to a realization of the conviction that they need to be saved. This doesn't always have to happen but it is not out of the realm of possibility. It took ten miraculous plagues before God's people were finally allowed to leave Egypt and follow the Lord as they wanted, without dealing with the brutal slave labor of Egypt. Next I'd like to view:

II. Ten Marvelous Providences of God. These were done not only to unite all the people traveling, but to showcase themselves to the other nations they would be passing through. These included:

A. The Sparing of Their Own Firstborn (Ex. 12). We must return to the Passover to see this. Israel, yet in bondage, were given a specific command from Moses, perhaps as a test to see if they were indeed ready to be a people set apart for Him. Lest they also partake of the plague that was meant for Egypt as a final ultimatum to let the Israelites depart, they had to believe God, at that meant doing as He asked. Here their belief is showcased with the feast and with the blood on the doorposts as well as the post above the entryway to their dwellings. The Lord "passed over" the houses of the faithful Israelites and entered the houses of all who failed to do this to smite their firstborn of both man and cattle (v.29). This marvelous providence was exactly what they should have remembered on their journey. Had they reflected on this, there wouldn't have been a reason to rebel.

B. A Cloud by Day, Fire by Night (13:21-22). This was a reasoning comfort for Israel during their journey, that God would never leave them nor forsake them. If you are His child, He will do the same for you (Heb. 13:5). This is not the 21st Century. The Israelites didn't have Google Maps or Map Quest, but they did enjoy the usage of GPS (God's Positioning System). There had to be something big enough for all to see (remember, the count of just males over twenty years of age was 600,000; so if you add women and children this could have easily been two million people going through the wilderness). We must also remember that God wanted to take them a certain way. Sure, there were shorter routes available, but God's way is always best. He took them His route instead of by the Philistines because of the battle therein, and He didn't want them to turn on Moses (cf. 13:17).

C. Passing Through a Sea Named Red (14:13-22). Pharaoh and the Egyptians are stirred, and they pursue the Israelites as they are encamped by the Red Sea. However, fear not, and see what the Lord does! This is quite possibly, next to salvation, one of the greatest miracles ever on the face of His awesome Creation. There is a path made for them to cross over, wide enough for many people and animals to cross, without having to stretch too far back. Egypt could not see this miracle quite yet, because God had blinded their eyes with the same pillar of cloud that guided Israel. This cloud also miraculously gave light to Israel while they prepared to cross the Sea (v.20). Now many liberals think that this was a narrow marsh that Israel passed through, so the water couldn't have been too deep. Well, in this case you'd have to argue for a greater miracle, because...

D. Egypt is Drowned and They are Left Dead (14:23-31). The army of Pharaoh pursues Israel right into the middle of the Red Sea and they perhaps had reached the back of the Israelite group when God sent them confusion, breaking up their chariots, and staying them in the middle of the Sea. Some of the Egyptians came to their senses and recognized this as being of the Lord, and tried to escape for dry land (v.25). Yet this was too late. As the last Israelite reached shore, Moses was ordered to restore the Red Sea to how they had come upon it. When the waters returned, Egypt was drowned. Now, if this were the "Red Sea", as it is called by the liberal hounds, the miracle would have been Egypt drowning in two or three feet of water! Not likely! Now the Sea, at point, albeit maybe a little more shallow than other areas of the Sea, still probably had to be at least fifteen feet deep for this to take place upon the water returning "to his strength" (v.27). When Israel saw that their enemies were now dead, they: "feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and His servant Moses" (v.31).

E. Bittersweet Water? (15:22-27) The Israelites followed the miracle with a song of praise that takes up much of the chapter. However, as they enter three days' journey without drink, in the midst of the wilderness, they reach the waters of Marah, which are bitter and undrinkable. Israel began their gripes at this point (more on these later) and God responds, in grace, with turning the water sweet when Moses cast a tree into the waters. Israel is given a stern warning though. Even though God is indeed longsuffering and patient, after long enough there will be no more room for grace, but judgment. More on this later as well.

F. A Quail Tale (16:1-13). Now Israel hungers, but they find that they like to complain instead of praising God, remembering all He has done for them thus far and trusting that He would provide for them on His timing. So quickly do God's people forget their blessings when they encounter the slightest hint of difficulty. How true. God provides them quail to eat for the evening, with a promise yet to come.

G. Bread from Heaven, Feed Me 'Til I Want No More (16:14-19). Behold, it is morning, and after the buffet of quail there is now something else upon the ground. They declared it "manna", which could also mean "what is it?" It tasted like: "wafers made with honey" (v.31). Even though we will have no need of food in Heaven, this is one thing I'd like to petition the Lord to let me try once. It will probably be much better than any honey bread anyone could ever make.

H. Water from the Rock (17:1-7). It seems like Israel needed to be waited on hand and foot, like some member of high ranking status. If even the slightest thing was amiss, they griped. Again, God showed great grace in answering their murmur, and has Moses strike the rock so water could come out and they could drink. Paul commented on this (cf. I Cor. 10:4; see also "The 21st Century Wilderness" devotional, which was featured in the 1/1/12 HFT newsletter, for more). This became a type of Christ. Morris wrote: "Just as Moses smote the rock with his rod of judgment (v.5), Christ had to be 'smitten of God' (cf. Isa. 53:4) before He could invite men to 'come unto Me, and drink' (cf. Jn. 7:37)".

I. Winning a War (17:8-16). Now, Israel didn't gripe here (at least if they did it wasn't recorded in Writ); but Amalek came and did battle with them. Moses and Joshua (yes, the son of Nun) chose men to do battle, and God gave them the victory. As a tribute, Moses built an altar to the Lord, and we see a name for the Lord as the altar was called "Jehovah-Nissi" (The Lord is my banner, v.15). Amalek and his descendants would fight often with Israel until the period of the kings and quite possibly even as far as to the reign of king Hezekiah.

J. A Quail Tale II: Flying Quail (Num. 11:31-32). Fast forward a short period of time (perhaps as short as fifty days) and here Israel was sick and tired of the manna. They loved the "Egypt Smorgasbord" (cf. 11:5) and wanted something with sustenance. God gave them this quail as their meat, but it would come with a high price tag (more on this later).

III. Ten Monumental Precepts from God. These precepts are the Ten Commandments, but I wanted to give a little extra "food for thought" with each one. The Israelites encountered so much so far, but God showed them grace as they approached mount Sinai. When they got there they made a covenant (Ex. 19), which included this saying: "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do" (v.8). How long was it before they forgot this rallying cry? Not very long, apparently. Here are these ten monumental precepts God gave them as a general rule of thumb, so to speak:

A. One God (20:2-3; Deut. 5:6-7). God was the One and the only One who brought these people out of bondage to Egypt, and nobody else. Moses was only "His servant" (14:31), or, referring to the

Lord, "my servant" (Josh. 1:2), acting as the mediator between God and men here. Therefore Moses is a type of Christ (cf. I Tim. 2:5). No one else can fill the void that a person without God in their life has. They can try as much as they like, with money, religion, sports, earthly relationships, whatever; but only thirsting souls can be satisfied with Living water.

B. **No Graven Images** (20:4-6; Deut. 5:8-10). Not only did God strictly forbid any other god or Himself to be made into a graven, created image of materials; but He also forbid animals, people, or other likenesses to be graven as well. Egypt was known for their vain worship of the sun, the waters, and animals as well. God took these "gods" to the task and proved His superiority over them in the Plagues. This should also put in place the environmental "treehuggers" for sure. I'm not for destroying what God gave us; it definitely should be treated with respect. However, there is a fine line between these overboard hounds and the common needs supplied by God and His Creation for man's usage. Furthermore, the people at Athens were also reminded of this Commandment by Paul, just in different words than these (cf. Acts 17:29). It could also be expanded to include statues of famous people (that could for some elevate that individual to "god-like" status), pictures of angels and the like, as well as pictures, portraits, or paintings depicting the Lord Jesus Christ. I for one am not a fan of any of these because seemingly every one of these shows him with long hair, which, through a careful study of I Cor. 11:1-15, especially v.14, must be incorrect and may even be downright blasphemous. Our Father is definitely one of mercy, whether you are a Christian or not. He especially imparts mercy on those who love and obey Him. However, He is a jealous God, and these images provoke Him to wrath. Ungodly parents tend, more often than not, to produce ungodly offspring. There can be exceptions, but this is usually the norm. So why, then, are godly parents producing ungodly children? There's something missing, and it is a refreshing reminder of: "them that love Me, and keep my commandments" (v.6).

C. **His Name is Sacred** (20:7; Deut. 5:11). Have you ever heard someone curse a deity other than God Almighty or the Lord Jesus Christ? No. Those who worship other gods or in other religions never curse their leaders, so neither should we. God forbid it even that we stoop so low. God will hold us even more accountable than a heathen who commits this sin. Furthermore, to use a euphemism for this is just as bad. God really knows what we are trying to say. Unless it is to praise Him or speak of His awesome power in our lives, there should be no other way that His name is uttered out of our mouths.

D. **Six Days of Work, One Day of Rest** (20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15). The Israelites were commanded to keep the Sabbath. Sabbath does not mean Saturday, as some claim. Sabbath means "rest". This is a day for us as believers to rest and give it back to God to honor and glorify Him. Paul elaborates on this further when he called it "the first day" (I Cor. 16:2) as the day of holy worship and gathering in the local church. It is the day we go to church to honor God, sing His praises, and hear His Word. It should not be the only day we do those things, but it is critical that we honor God on His day. A Christian should avoid working Sunday as much as is possible; which in this day is fairly hard, but still doable nevertheless. God did it all in six days; therefore, we should follow His pattern. He conquered sin, death, and the grave on the first day (cf. Matt. 28:1), and that is when we should gather. Local churches have since held services on Sunday, the first day of the week. To call this part of the "weekend" is politically correct, but biblically incorrect. Technically, Israel was allowed to labor six days. If you labor just five a week, you are blessed more so. Use that other day off to do something good for God. By taking the rest day off, and going to church, we remember His completed creation and His completed resurrection.

E. **Honor Your Parents** (20:12; Deut. 5:16). God created each one of us, but gives us as stewardships to our parents. We belong to God, but we must also obey the ones who nourished us and kept us through the years. This should be not only for those who grew up in Christian homes, but those of us who didn't have that blessing in our lives. The Bible does not say "honor the good parents". Lev. 19:3a says, "ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father..." As children and teens, the sin nature you have desires conflict. Don't give it place; rather, have the same respect for your parents as you would a high ranking official, such as our President (or Prime Minister, in other countries). Ephesians 6:1 declares: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." This is the first commandment with promise, Paul argues (Eph. 6:2). Even if your parents treated you badly, still honor them. God will bless you for it, and who knows: you may even win them to Christ. Israel was warned later on this: "And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death" (Ex. 21:17). This was deserving of capital punishment in that time. I'm not advocating that you deserve

death for cursing your parents, but I am arguing that it is a serious sin and it needs to be dealt with before your elders and before God. Don't forget the rebellious son was ordered to die if he was blatantly disobeying his parents' commands (cf. Deut. 21:18-23). Give honor to your parents, as unto the Lord.

F. **Thou Shalt Not Kill** (20:13; Deut. 5:17). God first gave this command to Noah as part of His covenant with man (Gen. 9:6). This is about as "bread and butter" as it gets. Even the heathen (for the most part) get this one. This does not apply in certain situations such as, but not limited to, juridical execution (otherwise known as the death penalty). Unfortunately this has been abolished by most states in this politically correct country we live in. I have stated my opinion on this in the devo, "I Have Sinned Against the Lord" (2/1/13 HFT). Christ confirmed this in the Beatitudes (Matt. 5:21). Paul reiterated this commandment to the church at Rome (13:9).

G. **Faithfulness is Required** (20:14; Deut. 5:18). Adultery is, of course, lusting upon another person who is not your spouse. However, even a glance the wrong way or a "double take" is also adultery. The single saint may not lust upon a person of the other gender. Relationships, unless for the purpose of courting for marriage, should be pleasantries only. Christ spoke of this in the Beatitudes as well (Matt. 5:27-28). Solomon had a lot to say on this, yet the man was a hypocrite with many wives and concubines. Faithfulness in marriage is a must. Don't give yourself an opportunity to ruin your life like David and others have.

H. **Thou Shalt Not Steal** (20:15; Deut. 5:19). This again is "bread and butter" Christianity. This includes physical theft and robbing God of what is rightfully His (the tithe). Stealing indicates a lack of respect to another person's rightful endowments. Paul defended this commandment, saying to Ephesus: "Let him that stole steal no more; but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good; that he may have to give to him that needeth" (4:28). Even believers had this problem. What a shame! Instead of needing to steal, why not work to provide for yourself? Why not work to bless another Christian or even your lost neighbor?

I. **Thou Shalt Not Lie** (bear false witness, 20:16; Deut. 5:20). To accuse another person without having all the evidence before you that they did err is unwise, especially if it is another Christian. The commandment is further elaborated on in 23:1. A matter had to be seen by two or more eyewitnesses in a case like accidental death and the accused fled to a city of refuge (cf. Deut. 23:15-20). David spoke on false witness and lying twice in Ps. 101 (v. 5,7). Be a truth teller. Christians should not have a long nose, so to speak.

J. **Be Content** (20:17; Deut. 5:21). The Israelites were to respect another person's blessing by God in their lives. I would also extend it to one not being covetous of their own blessings. To chide with another one over their wealth is therefore wrong. The Lord will decide how much we have. Spend it wisely, and there will be no need for covetousness. Paul argues against covetousness as being equal to idolatry, in worshipping something more than God in Eph. 5.

IV. **Ten Malicious Provokings Upon God**. Tempting our Creator is one of the worst things we could ever do on earth. Israel should have known better. Yet still they committed these ten grievous events, which provoked the God of Heaven and pushed Him to a certain level He didn't want to go to. One day His wrath will be wreaked upon the wicked of the world. Israel got just a small taste of His wrath until the "final button" was pushed.

A. **Egypt is Coming!** (Ex. 14:11-12) Did not the Lord get them out of Egypt? Did not He lead them by a pillar of cloud and of fire? This was a simple test of faith, but they utterly and epically failed this one. God was patient with His people despite their faithlessness.

B. **This Water is too Bitter** (15:23-24). When they reached Marah, after a few days without water to drink, they complain of some water that is undrinkable. It is sad to see that each complaint was accompanied by a threat to return to the egregious, slave labor conditions they had back in Egypt. The Lord undertook for them, but also gave a decree to them, lest they have disease similar to what they dealt with in Egypt.

C. **Now We're Hungry!** (16:2) Don't they sound like six year olds? They were playing child-like games with the very God of Heaven. I love Morris' comment on 16:3: "How quickly God's people forget their blessings when they begin to encounter some new problem." I for one am very guilty of that, to my shame. Where is our faith? Did it get drowned with the Egyptians in the Red Sea? If God provided for us in the past, will not He do it again? Moses gave them two warnings about the manna: 1) It wouldn't last until the next day,

yet they didn't listen, and it bred worms and became inedible (v.19-20). 2) There would be a double blessing on the sixth day and none would drop on the sabbath, but the double blessing would last both days. Yet people tried to gather on the sabbath, again not listening to God's chosen servant (v. 27-29).

D. Dad, I'm Thirsty Again! (17:24) Isn't it only fitting that three of these murmurings happened in the wilderness of Sin? Now they were at their breaking point and ready to stone Moses, believing God didn't keep His promises to them. Moses struck the rock, and water came out, and there was no further consequence for their unbelief.

E. "Up, Make us gods..." (32:1-8). Moses had been on the mount for forty days. Apparently Israel didn't know this, and so thinking that Moses wasn't coming back, they decided they wanted gods that: "brought us up out of Egypt". Aaron, Moses brother, sinned greatly in obliging to them. He broke the first two commandments in the process. This time, Israel went too far with the complaining, and Moses interceded for them. Then, he made a great declaration, in asking: "Who is on the Lord's side?" (v. 26) Would our answer be: "We are on the Lord's side! Saviour, we are thine!" I sincerely hope so. Three thousand were taken as a result, perhaps as a warning not to violate God's command.

F. Strange Fire (Lev. 10:1-2). Nadab and Abihu are two of Aaron's four sons. Now Aaron and his sons were going to be commissioned as priests, and just after God spoke to them, these two offered "strange fire". What exactly was the strange fire, we are not told in Scripture. The bigger principle learned here is that God's Word was directly violated by these two separated individuals. Those specially separated by God for service to Him need to adhere to God's Word like everyone else, but they are held to a higher standard. This act killed these two instantaneously and sent a clear message to the Israelites.

G. The Lord is Displeased with Their Complaining (Num. 11:1-3). It was not said in Scripture what the reason for this particular complaint was, but God had enough of it to send judgment their way. The outside parts of the camp were burned, and that was enough to turn their attention back on Him and not on their circumstances. Our blessings, if only we would stop to evaluate them, are always greater than our difficulties. Paul told the believers at Philippi: "Do all things without murmurings and disputings" (2:14). The Israelites were not good at being content.

H. Yet they Didn't Listen for Long (11:4-35). Apparently the mixed multitude (v.4) was responsible now for stirring up the people here. This was a group of outsiders who joined in along their journey and conformed to the Israelites worship of the Lord. They had "it all" in Egypt: fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic; and all they had here was manna. They wanted the "Egypt Smorgasbord". This drove Moses to the point that he wanted to die. God sends them quail, but it did come with a tremendous price tag. The psalmist reflected on this event, saying: "And He gave them their request, but sent leanness into their soul" (Ps. 106:15).

I. Miriam's Rebellion (12:1-16). Miriam, Moses's sister, had no need to rebel against God's authority and her very own brother for marrying Zipporah. Yet she and Aaron learned it well from the people they were with. She was then judged with leprosy and sent her out of the camp for seven days, as God commanded once Moses intervened for her.

J. The Final Straw (13:32-14:10). God and Moses ask twelve men to search out the land in which they would dwell. Two give a good report and say God can help them overtake the land. However, the remaining ten had a much different idea.

V. Ten Men Who Proved That Israel Deserved Judgment. The ten unfaithful spies are: Shammua (Reuben's tribe), Shaphat (Simeon), Isal (Issachar), Palti (Benjamin), Gaddiel (Zebulun), Gaddi (Manasseh), Ammiel (Dan), Sethur (Asher), Nahbi (Naphtali), and Geuel (Gad). These were respected leaders of their respective tribes. Moses intended for all twelve to give a report, but two did and of these other ten, none in ten did. If Moses was right in his thinking, these men would have stirred up their tribes to get them excited about serving the Lord, fighting for a cause, and claiming land for their rest and future generations to come. These men stirred up their tribes alright, just not the way God wanted them stirred up. God by now had far too much, and His patience ran out. These men were no longer worthy of the Promised Land. With the exception of Caleb of the tribe of Judah, and Joshua of the tribe of Ephraim, all over the age of twenty were to slowly die in the wilderness. All under that age were punished forty years for their fathers' transgressions. This new group would, yes, eventually cross the Jordan and see God do great things under Joshua. Moses would have entered

the land until he rebelled in striking the rock in which he was supposed to speak to it (Num. 20).

How long must we learn to be content and not gripe when the littlest things don't go our way? How long must God punish us before we will trust Him to provide? Could our potential "best years" of service for the Lord be for naught and we, too, die in a spiritual wilderness? Let us all pray not and learn to be content. God has done and will continue to do great in our midst. Let us trust Him in the times of physical leanness, lest we be consumed and "sent Home" early.

“Account” (Part 6) (By: Craig Glickman)

This is the continuation of a long, yet informative study on every appearance of the word “account” in the Bible. This word appears 31 times in the King James Version (*Account, Accounted, Accounting, Accounts*). For sake of space, I will show only the reference but I encourage you to take your Bible and read the passages.

Romans 14:12 – Gil describes this passage, I believe, best in 'Gil's Exposition of the Entire Bible':

So then everyone of us,... this is the conclusion, drawn from the foregoing account of things, that there will be a general judgment, that Christ will be Judge, and all must appear at his bar; from whence it necessarily follows, that every man, and so every Christian, strong or weak, whatever may be his gifts, talents, and abilities,

shall give an account of himself to God; that is, to Christ, who is God; which is another proof of his deity, for he will be the Judge, the Father will judge no man; it is before his judgment seat all shall stand; and therefore the account must be given to him by every one, of himself, and not another; of all his thoughts, words, and deeds, which will be all brought into judgment; and of his time and talents, how they have been spent and used; and of all his gifts of nature, providence, and grace, how they have been exercised for the glory of God, his own good, and the good of others: the formal manner in which this will be done is unknown unto us; however, this is certain, that the saints will have upon this reckoning, in what sort soever it may be, a full and open discharge, through the blood and righteousness of Christ. The Jews (q), say, in much such language as the apostle does, that

"when a man removes out of this world, then "he gives an account to his Lord", of all that he has done in the world."

'Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary' says this regarding Romans 14:7-13:

Though some are weak, and others are strong, yet all must agree not to live to themselves. No one who has given up his name to Christ, is allowedly a self-seeker; that is against true Christianity. The business of our lives is not to please ourselves, but to please God. That is true Christianity, which makes Christ all in all. Though Christians are of different strength, capacities, and practices in lesser things, yet they are all the Lord's; all are looking and serving, and approving themselves to Christ. He is Lord of those that are living, to rule them; of those that are dead, to revive them, and raise them up. Christians should not judge or despise one another, because both the one and the other must shortly give an account. A believing regard to the judgment of the great day, would silence rash judgments. Let every man search his own heart and life; he that is strict in judging and humbling himself, will not be apt to judge and despise his brother. We must take heed of saying or doing things which may cause others to stumble or to fall. The one signifies a lesser, the other a greater degree of offence; that which may be an occasion of grief or of guilt to our brother.

1 Corinthians 4:1 – Apostles were no more than servants of Christ, but they were not to be undervalued. Gil best exogetes this passage in 'Gil's Exposition of the Entire Bible':

Let a man so account of us,.... Though the apostle had before said that he, and other ministers of the Gospel, were not any thing with respect to God, and, with regard to the churches, were theirs, for their use and advantage; yet they were not to be trampled upon, and treated with contempt, but to be known, esteemed, and honoured for their works' sake, and in their respective places, stations, and characters; and though they were but men, yet were not to be considered as private men, and in a private capacity, but as in public office, and as public preachers of the word; and though they were not to be regarded as lords and masters over God's heritage, but as servants, yet not as everyone's, or as any sort of servants, but as the ministers, or servants, of Christ; as qualified, called, and sent forth by him to preach his Gospel; as ambassadors in his name, standing in his place and stead, and representing him, and therefore for his sake to be respected and esteemed; and as such who make him the subject of their ministry, preach him and him only, exalt him in his person, offices, blood, righteousness and sacrifice, and direct souls to him alone for life and salvation: and stewards of the mysteries of God; though they are not to be looked upon as masters of the household, that have power to dispose of things in the family at their own pleasure; yet they are to be regarded as stewards, the highest officers in the house of God; to whose care are committed the secret and hidden things of God; whose business it is to dispense, and make known, the mysteries of divine grace; such as respect the doctrine of the Trinity, the incarnation of Christ, the union of the two natures, divine and human, in his person, the church's union to him, and communion with him, with many other things contained in the Gospel they are intrusted with.

Emotions in The Bible (By: Craig Glickman)

There are many verses and passages in the Bible that relate to emotions and feelings of man and our Lord Himself in trials, suffering, affliction, and of course peace and joy. The following is an ongoing study of passages that have convicted, comforted, edified, encouraged or blessed me through hearing messages, devotions and studies over the years. I hope this is a blessing and help to you and I, and that the Lord may be honored and glorified in this series of studies on emotions in the Bible. Each issue, Lord willing, will have a verse or passage in the Bible covered. I am excited and privileged to do this. Praise God! I intend to break each passage down into the following: **Passage, Emotion(s), Cause, Effect, What does the passage say?, What does the passage say to you and I?, What should you and I do about it?, How do you and I stay accountable?**

Passage: Proverbs 12:5

Emotion(s): Thought life

Cause: Righteous thoughts

Effect: Right, while the counsels of the wicked and their thoughts are deceit.

What does the passage say?: Conduct is always linked to cogitation in God's word. We generally act the way we think. The Bible word for 'thoughts' reflects the part of the mind used to contrive, imagine, invent or devise. This is how we establish purpose and intention. As believers, we must be constantly examining our thought life and making sure it lines up with the word of God!

What does the passage say to you and I?: The word 'right' indicates a judicial decision. It is used of a judge's verdict. The way one thinks determines the way one decides. The best way to understand this is follow Bible guidelines for developing Biblical thinking:

1. Recognize the natural thought process has been contaminated by sin (Rom. 3:23). The human mind is always limited by sin. We need to fill our heart and mind with the Bible! It is the Holy Spirit's power that saves us from sin's power and habitual control of our life, which includes our thought life. Guard your eyes, lips and steps.
2. Don't expect perfection in thought control (1 Cor. 9:25). Paul indicated he had to persist in thought management.
3. Have a plan for developing thought control (Eph. 3:8; II Cor. 5:10; Gal. 6:7-9; Phil. 4:5-9). The apostle Paul adapted such a plan. He accepted existing limitations (Eph. 3:8). He recognized final authority (II Cor. 5:10). He cooperated with the 'Law of the Harvest' (Gal. 6:7-9). Lastly, Paul stated what he sowed in his mind in expectation of the 'right harvest' (Phil. 4:5-9).

What should you and I do about it?: Search the scriptures and examine where your thoughts are dishonoring the Lord and seek Him in prayer and ask Him to help you get victory over ungodly thoughts. First, you must realize those thoughts are sin! Second, you must confess them (1 John 1:9). Third, you need to seek God in prayer for godly counsel and victory over sinful, ungodly thoughts.

How do you and I stay accountable?: 1 Cor. 9:25-27 says it best, *“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things....I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:...”*

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

Look and Live

By: Bro. Lacroix

Text: Numbers 21:4-9

Eyesight is one of the greatest blessings God could have ever bestowed upon mankind. However, not everyone has been blessed by it, and not everyone enjoyed it for their entire lifetime. Yet some of the greatest people to ever step foot on God's great and glorious Creation were blind. Consider Helen Keller. From an early age, the Christian hymn writer Fanny Crosby was blind. These two women did great things in their individual fields and overcame their affliction.

I don't want to dwell upon blindness today though. I want to focus (no pun intended) on an important fact that relates to eyesight, and that is the ability to look. We look at things everyday. It may be a particular book we are reading. It may be looking at an animal searching for its next meal. It may not be very important. It may have grave importance. If we are crossing the street, it is important to check for oncoming traffic in one or even two directions. Sometimes I walk to work because it is a very short distance away. It saves gas in my car and gives me a chance for exercise (which I sorely need) and another opportunity to enjoy what God has given us. However, in that short distance I have to cross a four lane road at a traffic light. I need to time it just right in order to avoid a possible collision that could potentially be life-ending. In other words, I look to live.

The Israelites were in the wilderness after forty years of punishment for previous sins of many egregious types. However, after these forty years, God determined to bring this exodus home to the Promised Land. On the way there, they became hungry and thirsty. These are not sins in themselves. However, their discontentment with what God had given them is a sin. What they were given they could no longer stand, and they became discouraged. From our text, I'd like to discover three things about the Israelites that will be meant as a challenge for two other groups of people, of which we all fall into. I'd like us to see, first:

1. **The Israelites' Sin** (v.4-6). When the Lord finally brought them out of Egypt, it was supposed to be a short journey with a few lessons, a law giving session, a construction project, and that was all. A few weeks or months at most. I learned that the trip they were supposed to make, by foot, only stopping to rest, could have been as short as eleven days. If you indeed add the few weeks at the mount of Sinai for all the commandments

and added their Sabbaths, I suppose a two month journey would have been appropriate. Eleven travel days, a forty day gathering at Sinai to get the law and to build the tabernacle, the Sabbaths, and one additional day adds up to sixty; and the prophetic calendar they used back then were thirty day months, so that is two months. However, it didn't take the Israelites sixty days. It took them over forty years because of sins mostly relating to a lack of faith, among other issues. God showed them who He was and what He expected out of them during this time period, and was patient with them in the early days of the exodus. A lack of faith is what kept Israel from going home. My friend, is a lack of faith stopping you from doing what you truly want and what God truly desires of you?

Israel failed over and over again in their over forty year journey. This was but one of their failures, and God had to judge them for their sin. A lack of faith, no matter how great or small, Christian, is a sin, of which all of us have had, myself included. Israel was indeed a nation of people called by God. If you are a born again child of God, you too are part of the context. God judges every sin, no matter what it is, and God deemed this sin to be great. He sent fiery serpents among the Israelites', and as they bit the people of God, many of them perished. We are not given a number of those who died, but the word "many" indicates how severe this chastisement was. Paul was reminded of this, and told the church at Corinth: "Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents" (I Cor. 10:9). They tested the Lord in a way they shouldn't have, and God judged them. It must not have been very long after people started dying that they came to their senses and realized what they did was wrong. Therefore, they went to Moses.

2. **The Israelites' Salvation** (v.7-8). They admitted before Moses and God Himself that they were wrong. They admitted their sin, confessed it, and petitioned God to take the judgment away. Israel knew who to turn to when they needed forgiveness. As Christians today, we can go to God and admit our sins and confess all of them before Him. We are in fact commanded to do so, every day and perhaps every hour if need be. Go find I John 1:9 and claim it every time you sin. God will forgive every one of them. You may not have the judgment of that sin go away, but your transgression has gone away, even: "...as far as the east is from the west..." (cf. Ps. 103:12) Israel was restored to a right fellowship with God again that very moment they confessed their sin.

Now did the Lord remove the fiery serpents immediately? No. However, He had a much better solution. He commands Moses His servant to make a brass serpent, just like the fiery ones He sent as judgment, and then place that brass serpent upon a pole, and as people were bitten by these fiery serpents, if they went to the one upon the pole, and look upon it, they would live. This and only this saved their lives. Israel had to look and live.

3. **The Israelites' Solution** (v.9). It is very clear to see what they had to do. Moses made this serpent, similar to the ones that bit the people of Israel, out of brass, and set it upon a pole. All one had to do when they were bitten of the live, fiery serpent was go to the pole and look at the brass serpent in order to live. It was really simple and easy for them to do.

A few thousand years later, this event in Scripture became a type, or symbolic, of something far greater. This serpent on a pole symbolized our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Son of Man lifted up (cf. John 3:14-15) on a cross (think "pole"); and for one to live eternally, they must "look and live". Looking at Jesus Christ on the cross alone will not save you, because many did that on that day and still died not knowing Him as Saviour. It is, rather, that you believe on Jesus, that He will save you from your sins, is what is portrayed. Israel had to put their faith in a simple glance upon a brass serpent on a pole in order to live. My friend, if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, please grasp this: Christ loved you so much that He died for you and took your sins upon His body on a tree (the hewn cross of Calvary, cf. I Pet. 2:24). If you put all of your faith and trust in Christ's death on the Cross, you too will be saved. Your look must be one of belief in order to live. Anything else will not work. If Israel didn't look at the brass serpent, symbolizing trusting in something or someone else to save them, it didn't work and they died. If you don't believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting Him and Him alone to save you, when you pass away, you will die spiritually and spend eternity in Hell, apart from God, with NO opportunity to repent and get right. If you don't "look and live" at Christ on the Cross, that is your destiny that awaits you. You must trust Him one hundred percent. Israel had to trust the bronze serpent on the pole one hundred percent. It is the only way. Jesus said it Himself in John 14:6: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me."

Our challenge today is to two groups of people. First, do you know if at one point in your life, your sin was ever before you and you realized you had never trusted Jesus Christ to forgive you and save you from your

sins? If you have not, make today the day you "look and live". Look upon Jesus. Picture His body, tortured on a old rugged cross, wounded for you, His precious blood flowing down on a hilltop, covering your sins for good forever, and believe. Believe it in your heart and in your head. Ask Him to forgive you. Confess that you have no other hope but Him. If you do as such with a sincere heart, He will save you and you will live eternally with Him. I urge you to do this while there is still time. Israel had only a short time from when they were bitten to go find the brass serpent, look upon it and live. You only have your lifetime to repent of your sins and trust Jesus to forgive you of them and save you from an eternity in Hell. You may not live to see tomorrow. Life is precious, but eternal life is of greater value and is too great to ignore. Only trust Him and He will save you.

If you already know Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then what is stopping you and I from doing something great for God? Is it a lack of faith? If so, we need to 'fess up so we can continue on our journey to the new Promised Land: Heaven. A lack of faith is always an indicator of a bigger problem. Let's confess our sin to God, get right, and move on to do great things through Him and His work in us. Israel would get right and many people would go on to have a life full of serving God and bringing many people to faith in their Saviour to come as the One who did come, so that all can: look and live.

"I've a message from the Lord, Hallelujah! The message unto you I'll give. Tis recorded in His Word, Hallelujah! It is only that you look and live. Look and live, my brother, live! Look to Jesus now and live! Tis recorded in His Word, Hallelujah! It is only that you look and live." (William Ogden)

:) Children For Christ :) (Your Thought Life)

Memory Verse: Prov. 12:5 – *“The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.”*

1. Read *“Emotions in the Bible”* from this issue.
2. Please take a sheet of paper and, throughout your day, write down 10 thoughts that come to your mind. At the end of the day, see what you wrote down and pray to God to show you what thought(s) are sin.

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|---|---|
| <p>“A church should not be known for its seating capacity, but for its <u>sending</u> capacity!”</p> | <p>“A church that does not send will end!”</p> |
| <p>“Take missions out of the Bible and only the cover would be left!”</p> | <p><u>Praises</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God for over 1,000 marked NT distributed in the Walpole area since 5/16! <p><u>Prayer Requests</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray for salvation and needs of those affected by the tragedy in Boston, MA on April 15th. • Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman) • Lacroix family and friend Rick (Salvation) • Rusty and family, Jose, Rudney (Salvation) • Outreach of Heritage Baptist Church |

Quotes From the Past:

William Penn, 1644-1718

Founder of the State of Pennsylvania, USA



William Penn

“I do declare to the whole world that we believe the Scriptures to contain a declaration of the mind and will of God in and to those ages in which they were written; being given forth by the Holy Ghost moving in the hearts of holy men of God; that they ought also to be read, believed, and fulfilled in our day; being used for reproof and instruction, that the man of God may be perfect. They are a declaration and testimony of heavenly things themselves, and, as such, we carry a high respect for them. We accept them as the words of God Himself.”

Above quote is from BBC Update 4/15/13

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman and Andrew Lacroix who are members of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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Thank you for reading this. We praise God for all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ and we greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

His Servants,

Craig Glickman Andrew Lacroix

Prov. 3:5-6

1 Thes. 5:18

