

“We Wont Go!”

I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Last week** - The **10 spies** walked by *sight* & not by faith; **Caleb & Joshua** walked by *faith* & not by sight. The **Israeli spies** saw **giants**, but **Joshua & Caleb** saw **God**!
1. “**People** were too strong & too tall; **city walls** too fortified & too high.”
 2. **Unbelief** blinds you to **God’s greatness** & magnifies *your own weakness*.

II. **WE WONT GO!**

- A. **LAMENTATION!** (1-10)
- B. In **Ex15**(Red Sea) we see Israel **singing** in great victory *but here* they’re **weeping** in defeat!
1. *Had they forgotten their song?* [See **Ex. 15:14–18**]
 2. *There they had there eye on God & so faith sang; here they looked at giants & so unbelief wept.*
- C. (3) Before **Moses** was blamed...now **God**!
- D. Yah, it’s our wives & children we’re concerned about!
- E. (4) *At Horeb* they said, “*Let us make a calf*” *here*, “*let us make a leader.*”
1. The **calf** was made because it had brought them out of Egypt;
The **leader** was to be made in order to lead them back into Egypt!
- F. (7-9) Joshua & Caleb said no, embrace the promised land(7); accept God’s leadership(8); obey God, & choose faith over fear(9).
- G. (9) **Joshua & Caleb** identified it was **rebellion** against the Lord & **fear** of the people.
- H. (10) God waited until the people expressed a desire to **replace** Moses and **return** to Egypt; *then* He began to act.¹
1. **But within 10 verse:** The people wept, complained, looked back to Egypt, wanted a new leader, & even threatened to stone Caleb & Joshua.
 2. Such are the evidences of unbelief.
 - a) **Faith** looks ahead with **courage**; **unbelief** looks back with **complaint**.
 - b) **Faith** unites the people of God; **unbelief** looks for someone to blame.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines in O.T.

- I. **INTERCESSION!** (11-21)
- J. (11) **John Bunyan** tells us that **unbelief** has “*as many lives as a cat*” if so, “*let us kill one life now, and continue the work till the whole 9 are gone.*” “*Down with thee, thou traitor, my heart abhors thee.*”
- K. (11,12) God was willing to **destroy the entire nation** and **make a new nation** through Moses’ family, **but** Moses rejected this offer.
1. What humility, what love...but man it had to be tempting! :-)
 2. But I’m sure Moses realized also, that **his descendants** **wouldn’t be any different** from the nation he was now leading.
- L. A short time before, Moses was **complaining** because the people were such a burden, **and now** he was **pleading** on their behalf.
- M. (13-25) **3 arguments in Moses’ intercession:**
1. God’s **Reputation**; God’s **Consistency**; God’s **Mercy**.
- N. (18) **How did the sins of the fathers effect the children?** Their children, like Moses, had to wander bearing the consequences of other people’s sins.
- O. **CONDEMNATION!** (20-38)
- P. (20-25) The Lord **forgives** his people, although there will still be **consequences**.
1. In His **grace**, God **pardoned** their sin; **but**
In His **government**, He had to allow that sin to **produce** its bitter fruit.
- Q. (22) **Ten times?** - One commentary lists out 10 different times they were tested.
1. But possibly it was just the Hebrew way of saying a bunch. **E.g. Job 19:3**
- R. The Lord spares the people of Israel from complete destruction as a nation, but they will still be punished:
1. No one 20 years old or older (with the exceptions of Caleb and Joshua) will enter the Promised Land.
- S. (26-35) They will wander in the wilderness for the next 40 years until all of them **die** and a **new generation** is born.
- T. (29) **God gave them their request, announcing that they would die in the wilderness.**
1. Careful whatcha wish for!
- U. (30) **Only Joshua & Caleb win a free trip to Israel!**

V. (31) Again God answers their prayer from vs.3 - You care about your kids...ok.

W. (36-38) The 10 faithless scouts die immediately from a plague.

X. (38) **Faith** leads to **obedience** and **glorifies God**; **unbelief** leads to **rebellion** and **death**.

1. Why wander in **unbelief** when we can walk in **victory**!

Y. Did you ever think **grumbling** could have such **drastic results**?

Z. Why did **God** take their grumbling so **personally**? (grumbling stemmed from unbelief)

AA. **PRESUMPTION!** (39-45)

BB. How **fickle** is **human nature**! **One day** the nation was mourning because of their plight, **and** the **next day** they were recklessly trying to accomplish God's work apart from God's will and God's blessing.

1. They thought that because they had **confessed** their sin, God would **change His mind** and **give them victory**.
2. The people had acted stubbornly like the **mule**, & **now** they acted impetuously like the **horse**. (Ps.32:8 **Do not be like the horse or the mule**)

CC. The whole venture was **presumption** on their part; they were livin by chance not by faith.

DD. How many Christians today realize their failings **and** **then** try to make up for them in **fleshly activities** **that only** lead to **discouragement** and **defeat**?

1. All the Israelites could do was, accept God's judgment & surrender to His will.
2. **Far better** to wander in the **wilderness** **in** the will of God **than** to fight a losing battle **out** of the will of God.

EE. The **carnal mind** **cannot serve God**; it is **timid** when it should be **bold**, & **bold** when it should be **timid**.

1. It **advances** when it should **stand still**; & it **stands still** when it should **advance**.