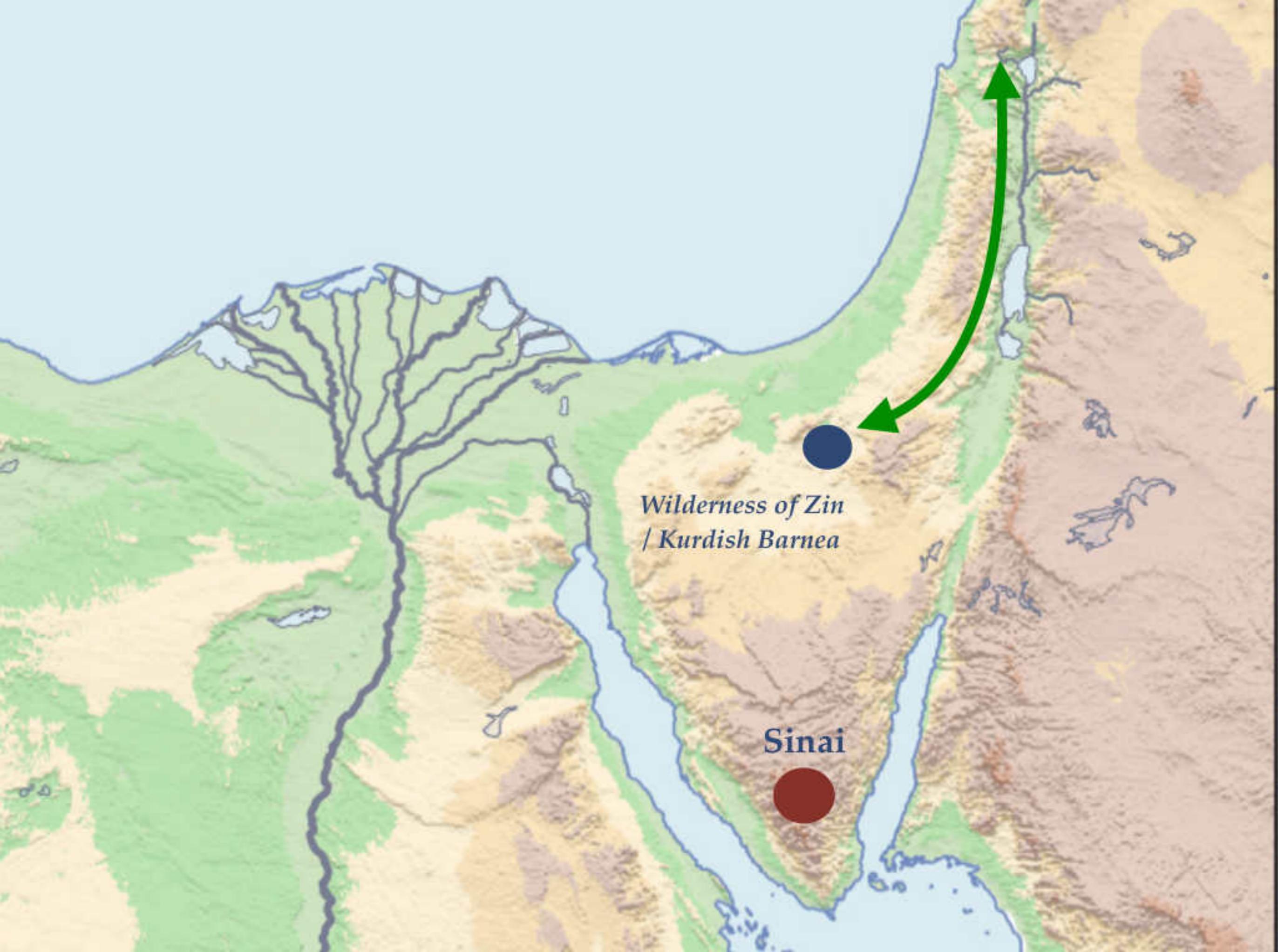




“Perfect Love Confronts the Hard-Hearted”

(Numbers 13-14) In the Wilderness Sermon Series - May 30, 2021

New Baptist Church



*Wilderness of Zin
/ Kurdish Barnea*

Sinai

“28 ... we saw the descendants of Anak there 29
The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb.
The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell
in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by
the sea, and along the Jordan (Numbers 13:28-29).”

30 “But Caleb quieted the people before Moses
and said, *“Let us go up at once and occupy it, for
we are well able to overcome it.”* “

31“Then the men who had gone up with him
said, “We are not able to go up against the
people, for they are stronger than we are.” “

32 So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height. 33 And there we saw the Nephilim (the sons of Anak, who come from the Nephilim), and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them (Numbers 13:32-33)."

(Numbers 14:1-4) Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them...

THE WISH

“Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!

THE PREDICTION

3 Why is the LORD bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey.

THE SIN

Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?” “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

Numbers 14:7-9 (Joshua and Caleb speak), “The land, which we passed through to spy it out, is an exceedingly good land. 8 If the LORD delights in us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a land that flows with milk and honey. 9 Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection is removed from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.”

Numbers 14:10 “Then all the congregation said to stone them with stones.”

Hebrews 3

7 “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, “Today, if you hear his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, on the day of testing in the wilderness, ...12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. 13 **But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ... 15 As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”**

4:11 – “11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest...”

The hardness of the heart is caused by the embracing of lies that enable sin, and its result is unbelief and the rejection of God.

Numbers 14:11-35 (The Lord Responds to the Hard Hearted)

- A dialogue that reveals truth -

14:11-12 And the **LORD said to Moses**, “How long will this people despise me? And how long will they not believe in me, in spite of all the signs that I have done among them? 12 I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they.”

TRUTH 1 - Because of the people’s sin, unbelief, and the rejection of the Lord, the judgment and thus consequence is death.

TRUTH 2 - Because of Moses’ righteousness, he deserves to be blessed. He deserves to enter the land and enjoy the presence of the Lord. He deserves to become “a great nation.”

14:13 But Moses said to the LORD, “Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, 14 and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O LORD, are in the midst of this people. For you, O LORD, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. 15 Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, 16 ‘It is because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.’ 17 And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, 18 ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.’

TRUTH 3 - Everything God does must be and is in accordance with God’s Glory.

Exodus 34:6-7 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

14:13 But Moses said to the LORD, “Then the Egyptians will hear of it, for you brought up this people in your might from among them, 14 and they will tell the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that you, O LORD, are in the midst of this people. For you, O LORD, are seen face to face, and your cloud stands over them and you go before them, in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. 15 Now if you kill this people as one man, then the nations who have heard your fame will say, 16 ‘It is because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land that he swore to give to them that he has killed them in the wilderness.’ 17 And now, please let the power of the Lord be great as you have promised, saying, 18 ‘The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, forgiving iniquity and transgression, but he will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, to the third and the fourth generation.’

TRUTH 3 - Everything God does must be and is in accordance with God’s Glory.

- God is perfect in love.
- God is perfect in justice.
- And God’s love is so much greater than his anger.

TRUTH 1 - The people have hard-hearts and have rejected God. They deserve to be removed from the presence of the Lord resulting in death.

TRUTH 2 - Moses deserves life and the Lord's inheritance.

TRUTH 3 - Everything God does must be and is in accordance with God's Glory.

- God is perfect in love.
- God is perfect in justice.
- And God's love is so much greater than his anger.

The Answer - Numbers 14:19 "Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now."

TRUTH 3 - Everything God does must be and is in accordance with God's Glory.

- God is perfect in love.
- God is perfect in justice.
- And God's love is so much greater than his anger.

The Answer - Numbers 14:19 *“Please pardon the iniquity of this people, according to the greatness of your steadfast love, just as you have forgiven this people, from Egypt until now.”*

“14:20 Then the LORD said, “I have pardoned, according to your word. 21 But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.



1. The Gospel - Jesus' death was a vicarious atonement. He took what is ours (our death, our punishment, our separation from God), and in return, he gives to us what is his (his eternal life, his inheritance, his fellowship with God).

2. Faith - Follow Jesus into the promised land and trust God with the "*giants*" in your life.

3. Your Witness of the promised land to this world.



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