

**Into the Promised Land - Joshua's Story**  
**Lesson #15 – The Problem with Presumptive Grace**  
**•HANDOUT•**

► Now, in this current study, we will see that God isn't quite finished with delivering His Judgment. He will act upon His Vow that He will not allow the guilty to go unpunished. He is going to deal directly and specifically with the Ten Spies who instigated Israel's rebellion.

We pick up the story with God's addendum to His Judgment, which will be followed by the people's response to God's Decision.

Numbers 14:36-39 • So the men Moses had sent to explore the land, who returned and made the whole community grumble against him by spreading a bad report about it -- these men responsible for spreading the bad report about the land were struck down and died of a plague before the Lord.

Of the men who went to explore the land, only Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh survived. When Moses reported this to all the Israelites, they mourned bitterly.

Q: What was it about the behavior of the “Ten” that earned them this “Addendum of Judgment” from God?

Q: What was the plague that instantly killed them?

Q: Israel's response to Moses when he informed them the “Ten” were dead, they began to mourn bitterly. Why are they mourning with bitterness? They had a death sentence on their heads as well.

Q: Not only is the title of this lesson, “The Problem with Presumptive Grace” but we have now discussed “Presumptive Grace” as a reason for Israel's bitterness. So, what is Presumptive Grace?

► **Here is how Presumptive Grace progressed with the Israelites:**

1	God _____ Israel and made a Covenant with them as _____ so that they could shine _____
2	When they _____ God was patient with them, always granting them His Mercy & Grace.
3	They became _____ to God's Grace.
4	Then they began to _____ God's Grace.
5	Finally, they began to believe they were _____ to God's Grace.
6	Their sense of _____ brought them to _____ when things did not go their way.
7	_____ earned the first generation of Israel the sentence of _____

Q: Is Presumptive Grace a problem within Christianity today?

► Professor & Theologian, R.C. Sproul, spoke about Presumptive Grace in his book, "The Holiness of God." RC was employed as a Professor of Theology at a private Christian College when he wrote the book. The following excerpt explains what happened at the beginning of the school year in one of his Theology classes:

"At the beginning of the year I published the dates various reports and papers would be due. Each occurred on a Monday, even though I was aware Mondays might be difficult for some of the more gregarious students. When the first report came due, one of the girls in class came up and explained she had had an emergency over the weekend and her report wasn't quite finished. Could she have an additional day? I granted her the additional day.

"When the next paper was due, several students came forward and gave various sob stories as to why their papers were not finished and requested an additional day. Again I granted it.

"The class broke out in a robust song: "For he is a jolly good fellow!" I stopped them and said in a grave voice, 'I have given many of you grace, but when the next paper comes due, **there will be no extensions.**'

"When the 3<sup>rd</sup> paper came due, only two students in the class turned in their papers. The rest of the class requested the now, usual-and-expected, extension. I shook my head, called the name of each student, asking for his paper. For those who did not have a paper to turn in, I marked an "F" in my roll book. "Cries of "***unfair***" filled the air.

"I spent the rest of the hour teaching on the problem of presumed Grace."

#### Israel's Commitment to Presumptive Grace generates Israel's next decision...

Numbers 14:40 • Early the next morning they went up toward the high hill country. "We have sinned," they said. "We will go up to the place the Lord promised."

Q: Why does Israel decide to go into the Promised Land? God told them to pack up and go back to the Desert.

Q: Why wouldn't this work? It always had in the past when they repented. What was different this time?

#### Moses gives them a dire warning ...

Numbers 14:41-43 • But Moses said, "Why are you disobeying the Lord's command? This will not succeed! Do not go up, because the Lord is not with you. You will be defeated by your enemies, for the Amalekites and Canaanites will face you there. Because you have turned away from the Lord, he will not be with you and you will fall by the sword."

Q: Why does Moses even bother to give these men this dire warning? These people were ready to stone him and pick a new leader?

Numbers 14:44 • Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the high hill country, though neither Moses nor the ark of the Lord's covenant moved from the camp.

Q: What does the word “Nevertheless” tell us?

Q: Why does Israel choose to ignore Moses' warning?

### Nevertheless, the men ascend to the mountaintop ...

Numbers 14:45 • Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hormah.

Q: Who is it that meets the Israelite's challenge to take the land?

Q: What was the outcome?

Q: What is so ironic about this situation with Israel?

### And so we begin the journey of 40 years in the Desert Eventually, this will become Joshua's story but not for a while yet ...



Next Time • Lesson #16  
◀ The Forty Years ▶  
“An Ancient Modern-Day-Style Protest”

