

Scripture

Numbers 14:1-12 (NLT)

The People Rebel

1 Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. **2** Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. *“If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!”* they complained. **3** *“Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn’t it be better for us to return to Egypt?”*

- 4** Then they plotted among themselves, “*Let’s choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!*”
- 5** Then Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground before the whole community of Israel.
- 6** Two of the men who had explored the land, Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, tore their clothing. **7** They said to all the people of Israel, “*The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! 8 And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey.*”

9 *“Do not rebel against the Lord, and don’t be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don’t be afraid of them!”*

10 But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the Tabernacle. **11** And the Lord said to Moses, *“How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them?”*

12 *“I will disown them and destroy them with a plague. Then I will make you into a nation greater and mightier than they are!”*