

-Save This Page as a PDF-

Moshe Remembered the Events at Kadesh-barnea 1: 19-46



Continuing with the historical prologue (to see link click [Aj](#) - The Historical Prologue), **Moshe** remembered that the journey from **Horeb (Mount Sinai)** to the oasis of **Kadesh-barnea** took about eleven days for **the generation of the Exodus**. But when the newly freed **Israelites** got there, **they** lacked the faith to possess **the Promised Land**. After arriving in **Kadesh-barnea (1:19)**, **Moses** commissioned **twelve spies** to survey **the Promised Land**, but ten of **them** brought back a discouraging report, which caused **the children of Isra'el** to reject **the LORD's** promise of a victorious conquest. Consequently, **God's** punishment of those **rebels** was that no adult from that generation (except **Joshua** and **Caleb**) would enter **the land of milk and honey**. **The people's** rebellious attempt to enter Canaan on **their** own strength was thwarted by the Amorites.³⁸ **That** faithless **generation** had to wander **in the wilderness** for about **forty years** until **they** had all died without seeing **the Promised Land**. The events of **Numbers 13** and **14** are recalled here in order to challenge **the new generation** not to fail once again. One wasted **generation** was enough. It is an interesting feature of **Deuteronomy**, however, that the succeeding generations of **Isra'el** are treated as if that history were **their** very own. This is consistent with the view expressed elsewhere in the book that **the Israelites** were prone to unfaithfulness (**Deuteronomy 9:4-6**).³⁹