

WEDNESDAY

Rejecting the Source of Life

- Thru/out Bible = people who turn away from God /His Word
 - face spiritual decay / judgment / destruction / death
- Since Satan twisted God’s Word in Garden of Eden = planted doubt in humanity’s heart = about God’s love / protection / purpose
 - humans call into question God’s Word = Bible

Numbers 13:23-33 Standing at edge of Promised Land

God told people to go up / possess land –they wanted to send delegation of spies first. W/God’s permission = Moses sent 12 spies into Promised Land. Returned w/evidence of abundance from land “milk/honey” , but w/ two differing reports

- Ten faithless men returned = majority vote negative = giants in land, weapons they had never seen before, well-trained armies
From human perspective = had Grasshopper mentality
- Only Caleb /Joshua spoke w/faith = ready to accept God at His Word
 - “Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”
- People refused = doubted God’s promise

Numbers 14:11 Then the LORD said to Moses: “How long will these people **reject Me**? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them?”

- Consequences of rejecting God = wandered in wilderness 40 years
- Only Joshua and Caleb = entered Promised Land

Jeremiah 2:13 “For My people have committed two evils: **They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters,** And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.

- Broken Cisterns = stale water of human reasoning leaks out

- Israel's Rejection = led to national calamity

Hosea 4:6 ⁶My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. **Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you** from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

- Second Person of Godhead took human flesh = came to earth to overcome deep void of darkness = radiate love of God into hearts of those who stumbled in darkness of sin
- Person of Jesus Christ = embodiment of God's life-giving presence
 - covenant in the flesh

John 1:5 ⁵And the light shined in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend [overcome] it.

- Open door/window=Light conquers darkness/cannot be overcome

John 1:10–11 ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

- Met w/ disbelief = hostility = twisted view of Scriptures
- spiritually blind refused to open their eyes to truth of His Words = His light = many of His own people rejected Him
 - humanistic thinking begins w/doubt
- **Isaiah 53:3** He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

John 6:63–64 ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe."

- Embracing His divine truth leads to spiritual renewal /eternal life

John 12:48–50 ⁴⁸He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. ⁵⁰And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

- Moral / spiritual consequences = suffered when/ reject Source of Life
- Reject His Word = turning away from divine provision/guidance
- Consequences of rejecting Jesus Christ = Source of Life
 - separation from God/ loss of divine blessings / spiritual death
- Those who repent/return to embrace Lord as Source of Life
 - receive restoration and promise of eternal life

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 10:35–38 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷“For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

³⁸Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.”

- Don't allow trials/ persecution = cause you to turn back
- Endure to the end = trusting in Christ as Source of Life
- Daily walking in will of Father = revealed in His Word
- Your reward = obtain promise of salvation = eternal life

“The contemporary humanistic way of thinking begins with doubt. People question everything in order to determine what is truth. That which survives the fire of cross-examination they accept as rock-solid knowledge, something on which to place one’s faith. Some apply the same method to the Bible, calling everything into question from a scientific, historical, psychological, philosophical, archaeological, or geological perspective in order to determine what is truth in the Bible. The very method itself starts with and builds upon doubt in the veracity of Scripture. Christ asked, ‘When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?’ (Luke 18:8).” —E. Edward Zinke and Roland Hegstad, *The Certainty of the Second Coming*, (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2000) p. 96.