

## Traveling The Kings Highway Pt 1

### Numbers 20:17-21

- All over this nation around states, cities, and towns we are connected by highways, it's the simplest, easiest and most direct way of daily travel for most people, but what is interesting is the bible also refers to Highways both in the natural as well as for the spiritual. This morning we are going to begin a series called "Traveling The Kings Highway" in where we'll see that God has also provided for His people a simple, easy, and direct path which leads to His glory and our blessing, but although its simple and easy to find, the enemy has made it very difficult to stay on.
- **Num 20:17-21** > mention to us for the first time "**The Kings Highway**" this was a road that led from the wilderness of Kadesh traveling East and then North along the East coast of the Dead Sea, and finally the Jordan river, this would get them where they wanted to be in Canaan within ten days. In traveling this route meant that they would have to travel through the territory of the Edomites and to do that safely they needed permission from the King of Edom.
- Two important facts about this > **1**. Remember this journey is one that God ordained, but it doesn't mean we won't be met with unforeseen opposition. So although God may call you to a particular task, don't become discouraged because your being challenged, maybe even redirected on your course in order to reach the desired destination. Too many times we are ready to quit, give up, throw our hands up just because we run into some unexpected trouble.
- Israel fully expected that the Edomites would let them pass since they were related as the Edomites descended from "**Esau**" Jacob's twin brother, this is why before Israel even came to their territory Moses sent a message to the King appealing to him as a brother **20:14**. Moses even reviewed Israel's history from the time of Jacob's descent into Egypt to its present moment, all of which the King was already very familiar with, and if that didn't work, Moses promised that Israel would stay on the King's Highway and eat nothing, but if they did they would pay for it.
- This is a reasonable request, we are going to stay on the Highway, we won't travel through any of your fields, or vineyards, if any of us or our livestock eat or drink anything, in other words cost you extra because we've traveled through the area we will pay for it, okay cousin! **V20-21** a reasonable request is met by unreasonable men who come out ready to fight and kill if necessary, wat should have been an easy negotiation turns into a potential blood bath.
- **Num 21:1** so they have to have a change of plans and head South and go the long way around but that also is met with hostility as King Arad of the Canaanites comes out against them to fight. Before the Lord didn't have them fight the Edomites since they were related, He has other plans for them, but He has them fight with the Canaanites because He has called them to take the land. The problem is they don't initially have a resounding victory but a standstill, one in which they suffered some losses, having some of their people taken hostage by the enemy.

- What do you do, murmur and complain, point the finger at God, do your own thing? **Num 21:2-3** they go to God and make a vow that they will do everything that He has called them to if He gives them the victory, remember God has called them to take the land and destroy the Canaanites > **Gen 15:16**, a command that they didn't always follow as we'll see later on. This brings us to the second point when traveling on "**The Kings Highway**".
- **2.** Be courageous and Patient, not fearful. Later after experiencing victory over King Arad the Israelites slip back into their old ways and start to complain because the journey is taking longer than expected, and then the complaints turn into exaggerations as the people start to say it would be better if they had stayed in Egypt instead of traveling this long distance to fulfill God's will. They even call "**Manna**" God's gracious provision, loathsome, and worthless.
- **Num 21:4-10** God gets to the root of the problem and sends fiery serpents that bite and sting the congregation into submission, and the very thing that they were afraid of becomes the thing that they needed to look at in order to receive healing. It's the same for us, we need to look sin and death in the eye, the very thing that's hurting us, and realize we need help, and then look to the cross for our healing, and the thing that looks gross and scary is where we draw our strength and our hope from, showing us that we can now face whatever it is that stands against us.
- **Is 35:1-10** this speaks of when Jesus returns and establishes His Kingdom on earth, notice that which was once arid and barren will now blossom and become fruitful, for the both the land and the people will experience restoration. One day this is going to happen but not now, presently we have to endure the wilderness, the wasteland, the opposition, and lack of support, and to do that I must be courageous, patient, unafraid, as one day I will see the desert blossom as the rose.
- **V3-4** but in the meantime I need to strengthen the weak hands, make firm the feeble knees, encourage the fearful, telling them to be strong, don't fear, our God will fight for us, He will repay those who mistreat us, He will save us. This is where we derive our hope from in our present trials, this is what helps you overcome the fear that's in all of our hearts. **V5-6** because when God's salvation comes the miraculous follows, both in the physical and spiritual just as we see in the gospels when Jesus walked the earth healing the sick and diseased.
- **V7** finally when abundance replaces lack, when what was dry and useless becomes well watered and fruitful, as it will be streams flowing in the desert. God does that for us spiritually **Jn 7:38-39** we were all once dry as the desert spiritually, scripture calls you dead, no life at all, but when the miraculous Power of Jesus Christ entered in what was once parched ground became a pool flowing with Living Water of the Holy Spirit, this is why you're so fruitful now spiritually.
- **V8-10** God provides for us a Highway of Holiness one that is equipped with guardrails, as notice even if everything is not perfect, and His Work in us isn't completed yet, and there is still some things in us that is foolish, because we stick to His Highway, we are safe even on the dangerous curves, He will keep you and I from falling off. But those who won't receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, and will not follow His Commandments they cannot pass over it. **1Pet 5:8** this lion has never yet devoured anyone who stayed on this road, and that is a promise from the Lord.