

# Mountains and Valleys



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Valleys can be VERY fertile.

## Context: The Book of Numbers

- Part of the Pentateuch
  - Contains the events following the book of Exodus
  - Covers roughly 39 years, including the years of wilderness wanderings
  - Written through a spiritual lens more than a historical lens
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- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide featuring stylized mountain peaks. The peaks are rendered in two colors: a dark teal and a light orange. The shapes are smooth and rounded, creating a layered effect that spans the width of the slide.

# The State of the People

- Unknown freedom
  - Don't know a life outside of slavery
  - Overworked
  - Undernourished
  - Exhausted
- In an unknown land
- Following an unknown leader

## Between the Exodus and Numbers 13

- God met with Moses on Mt. Sinai twice
- Golden Calf incident
- The tent of meeting
- Tabernacle is built
- Celebrated Passover
- Quail and Manna

<sup>6</sup> “Therefore, say to the Israelites: ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup> I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup> And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord.’”

Exodus 6:6-8

# Erosion

An abstract landscape illustration. The background is a light blue sky with a subtle paper-like texture. On the left, a large, smooth, orange-colored shape slopes downwards. In the foreground, there are several rounded, green hills of varying shades. To the right, there are dark teal, angular mountain peaks. A single, bright yellow circle, representing the sun or moon, is positioned in the sky between the orange slope and the mountains.

# Land and People

<sup>17</sup> When Moses sent them to investigate the land of Canaan, he told them, “Go up through the Negev, and then go up into the hill country <sup>18</sup>and **see what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, few or many,** <sup>19</sup>and whether the land they live in is good or bad, and whether the cities they inhabit are like camps or fortified cities, <sup>20</sup> and whether the land is rich or poor, and whether or not there are forests in it. And be brave, and bring back some of the fruit of the land.” Now it was the time of year for the first ripe grapes.

Numbers 13:17-20

### JOURNEY OF THE SPIES

NUM. 13:1-33; NUM. 34:1-12

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- Oasis
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Journey of the twelve spies
- The promised land



\*Map from Precepts Austin

Land – great, fruitful

People – not so great, intimidating

<sup>26</sup> They came back to Moses and Aaron and to the whole community of the Israelites in the wilderness of Paran at Kadesh. They reported to the whole community and showed the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> They told Moses, “We went to the land where you sent us. **It is indeed flowing with milk and honey, and this is its fruit.** <sup>28</sup> **But the inhabitants are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large.** Moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the land of the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites, and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan.” – Numbers 13:26-29



Will you trust me?

## Fears can lead to:

- Fixating on the problem
- Negatively influencing others
- Downplaying God's abilities
- Romanticizing the past
- Amending God's plan

## Fears can lead to:

- Fixating on the problem
- Negatively influencing others
- Downplaying God's abilities
- Romanticizing the past
- Amending God's plan
- Stewing in anger
- Sitting in indecision
- Distracting and ignoring the situation
- Questioning yourself

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

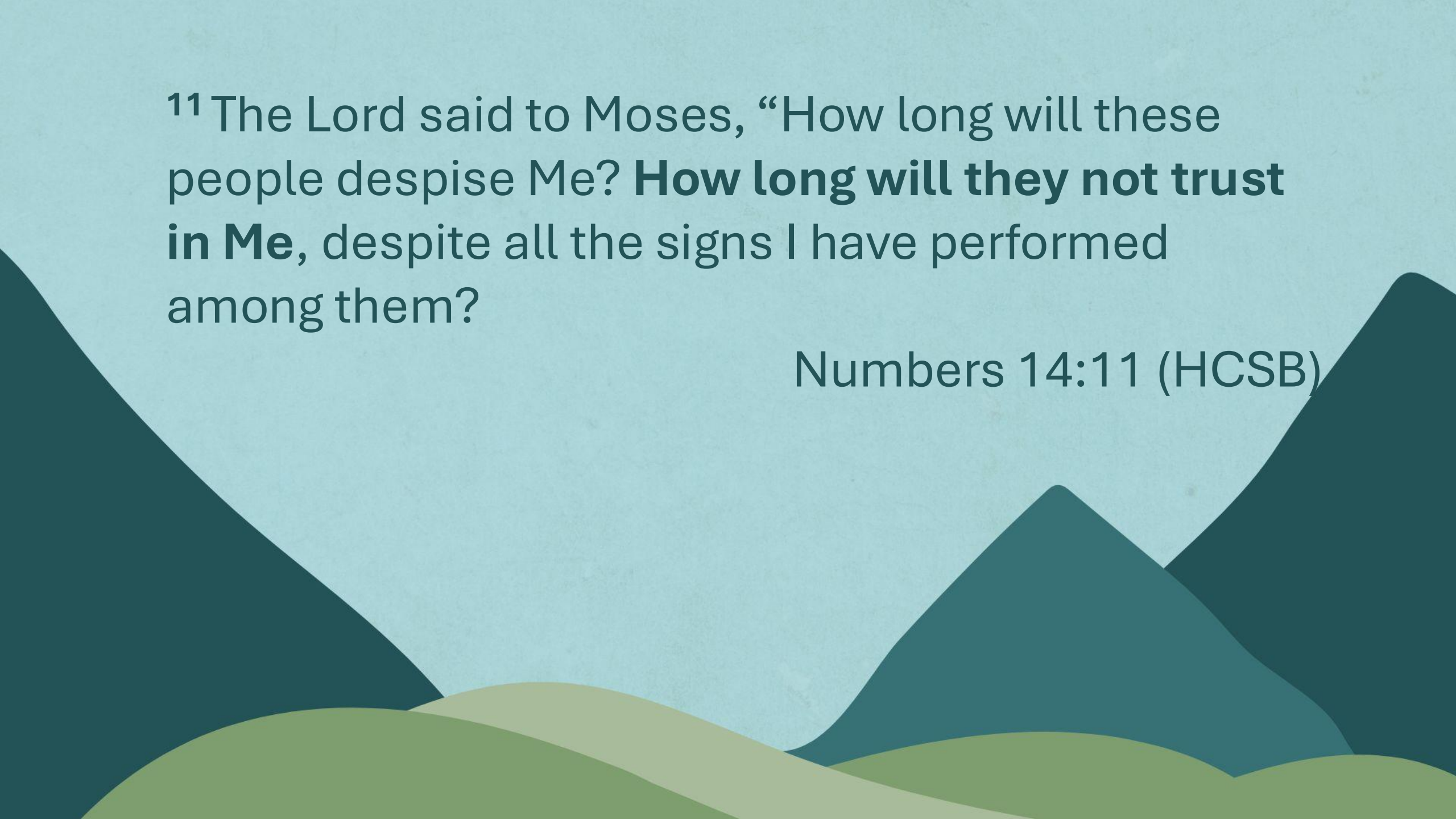
Philippians 4:6-7 NET

When we trust God,  
our situation may not change,  
but our perspective will.



<sup>7</sup> They said to the whole community of the Israelites, “The land we passed through to investigate is an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup> If the Lord delights in us, then **he will bring us into this land and give it to us** - a land that is flowing with milk and honey. <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the Lord, and do not fear the people of the land, for they are bread for us. Their protection has turned aside from them, but **the Lord is with us**. Do not fear them!”

Numbers 14:7-9

The background of the slide features a stylized mountain landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling green hills. Behind them, several dark teal mountains of varying heights and shapes are visible against a light blue sky. The overall style is minimalist and modern.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “How long will these people despise Me? **How long will they not trust in Me**, despite all the signs I have performed among them?

Numbers 14:11 (HCSB)

<sup>5</sup> But God was not pleased with most of them, for they were cut down in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> These things happened as examples for us, so that we will not crave evil things as they did.

...

<sup>12</sup> So let the one who thinks he is standing be careful that he does not fall. <sup>13</sup> No trial has overtaken you that is not faced by others. And God is faithful: He will not let you be tried beyond what you are able to bear, but with the trial will also provide a way out so that you may be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:5-6, 12

Our trials and fears are not new...  
but neither is our God.





Will you trust me?