

Numbers 14:5-19

Jehovah Judges_02

**[Refusing to Trust God and
His promises Leads to Judgment]**

Many of us have stories about some adventure we almost embarked on only to back out at the last minute. It may have been a roller coaster, skiing a black diamond slope, or some other adventure we left for others to try.

We could not get over the fear. The Israelites looked at the obstacles facing them in the promised land and decided the obstacles were too great.

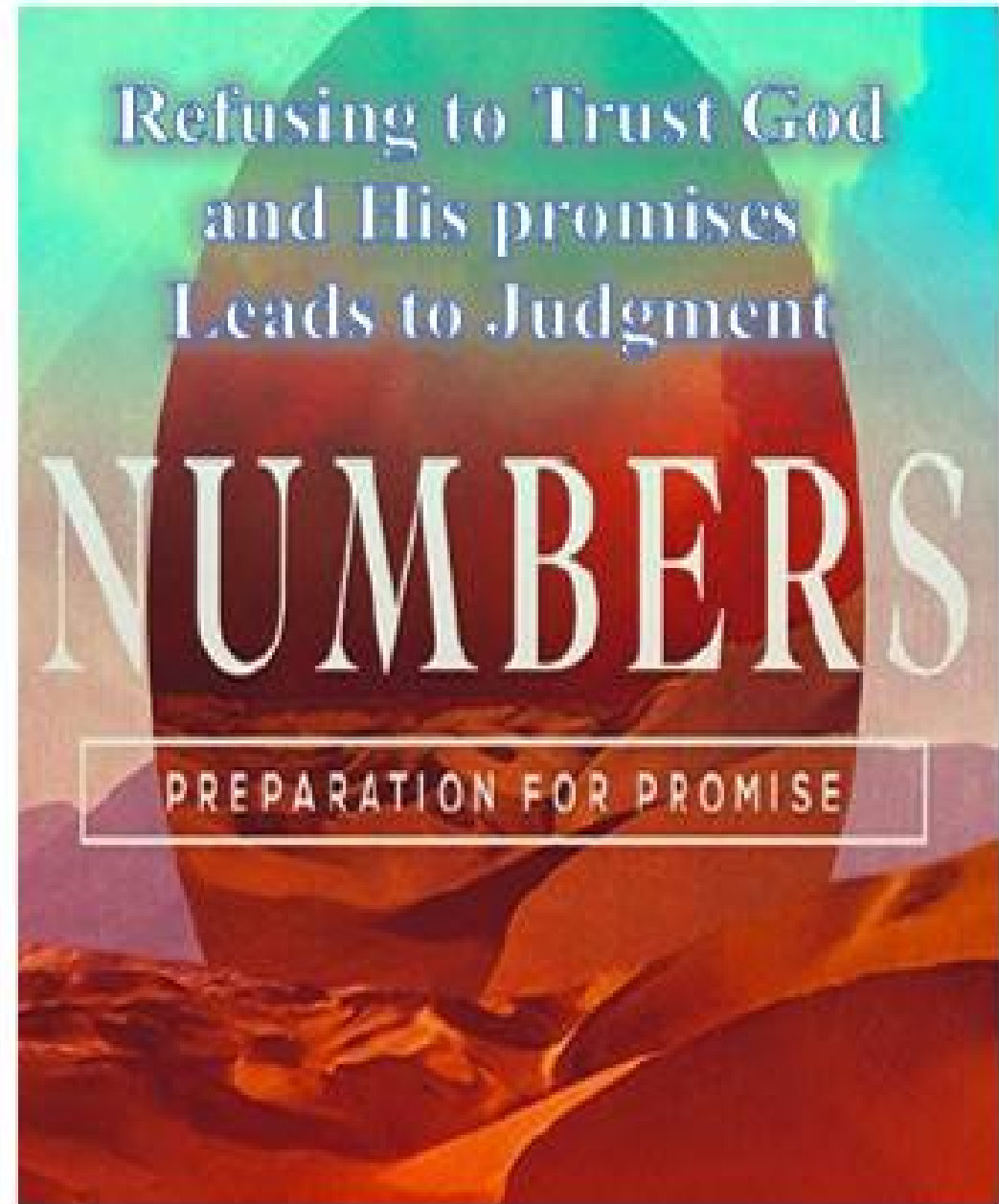
As a result, the blessing that awaited them would be left for another generation to enjoy. Instead, they faced God's judgment.

Preparation for The Promise is a series about the Book of Numbers.

God is always pointing us somewhere, but sometimes it isn't always clear where he's pointing us. As we wait for his direction, God will shape us and teach us how to trust him.

However, the danger of waiting is that during that time we can grow restless, frustrated, and even disobedient.

The book of Numbers is a great reminder to keep our eyes focused on God while we wait “in the wilderness” for God to fulfill his promises.



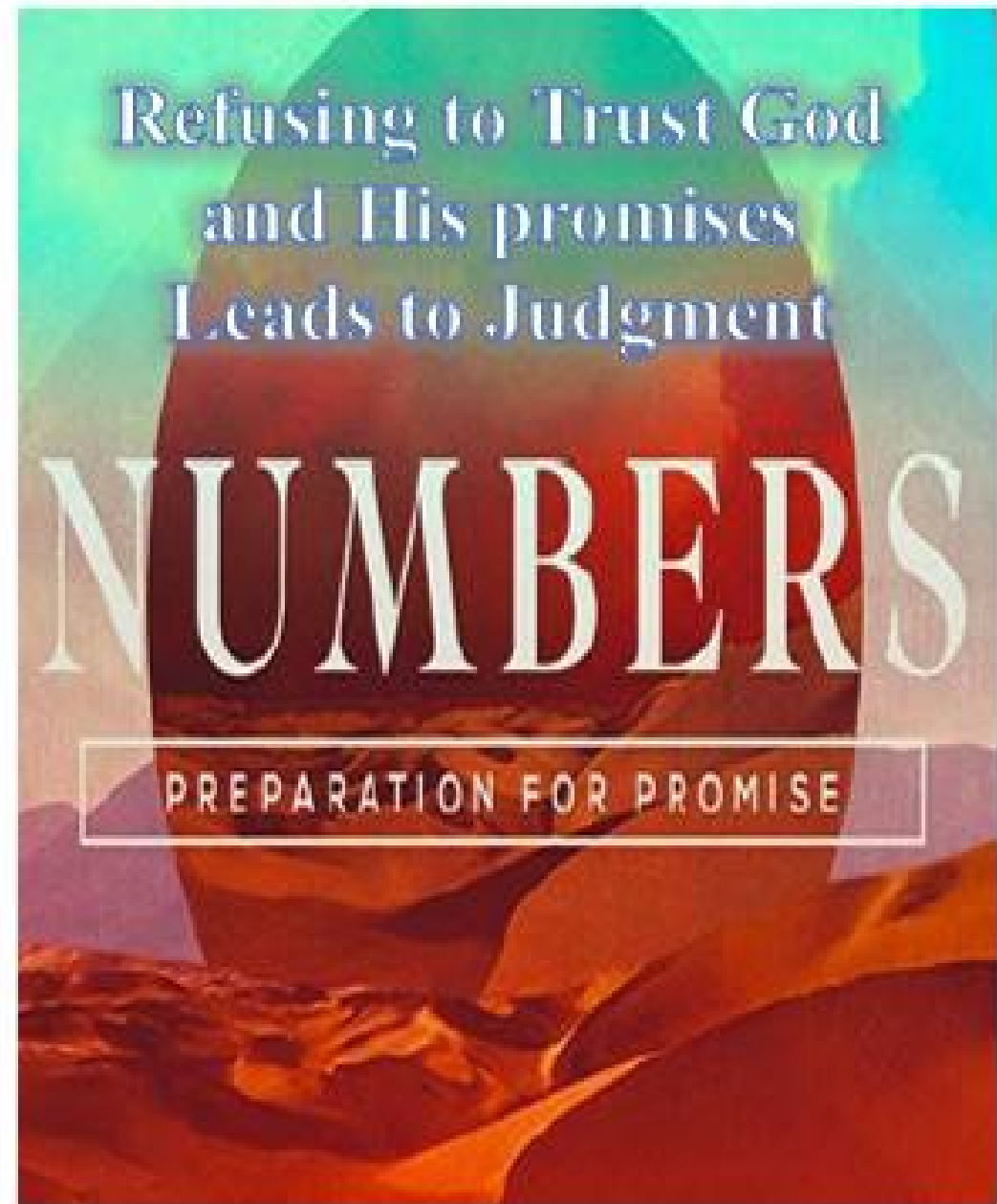
Centering around Four major events, the book easily divides into Four sections:

1 The consecration of Israel at Sinai
(1:1–10:10)

2 The rebellious generation in the wilderness (10:11–25:18)

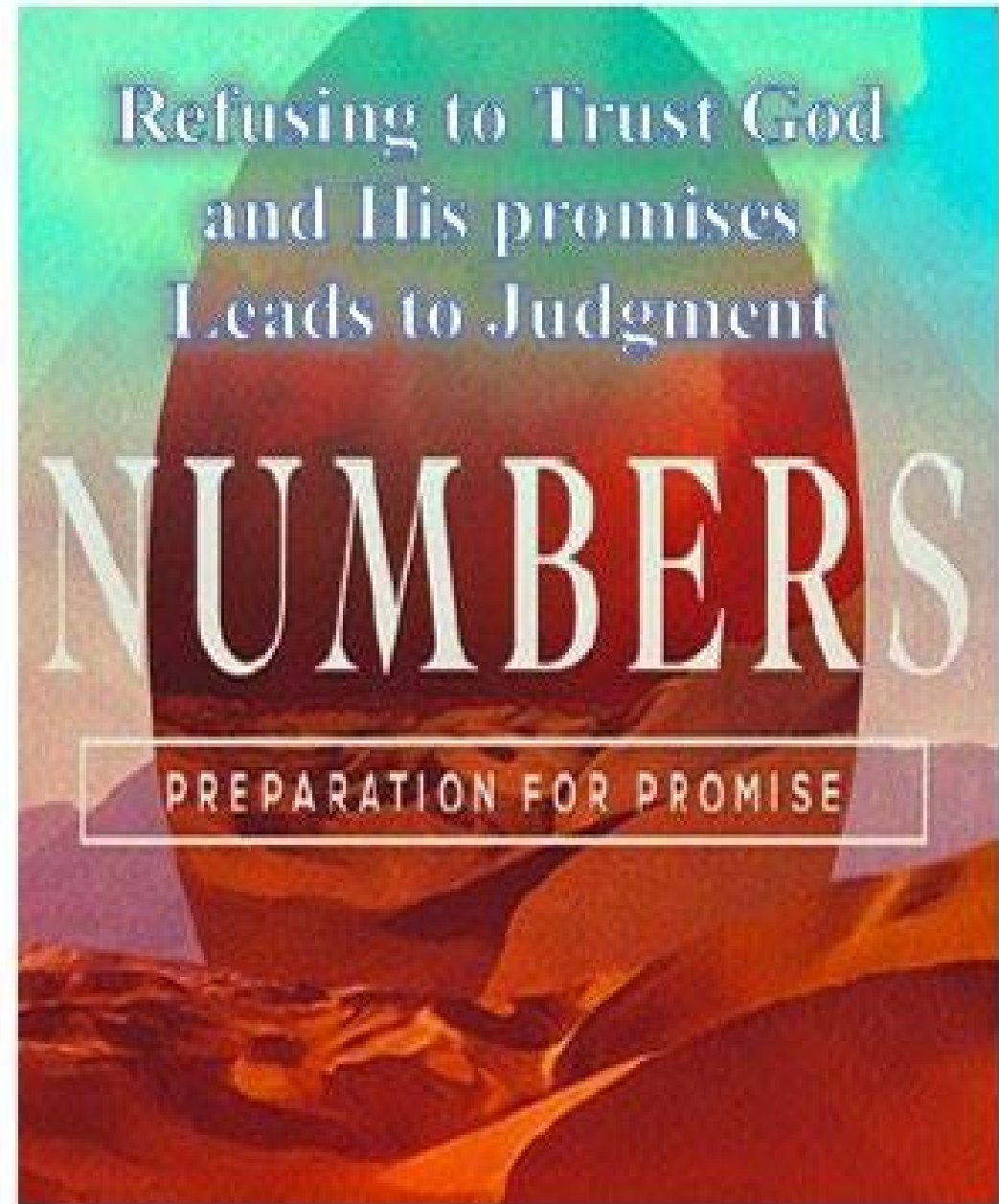
3 The preparation of the new generation (26:1–30:16)

4 preparation for war and entry into the promised land (31:1–36:13)



Chapter 14 is divided into four parts:

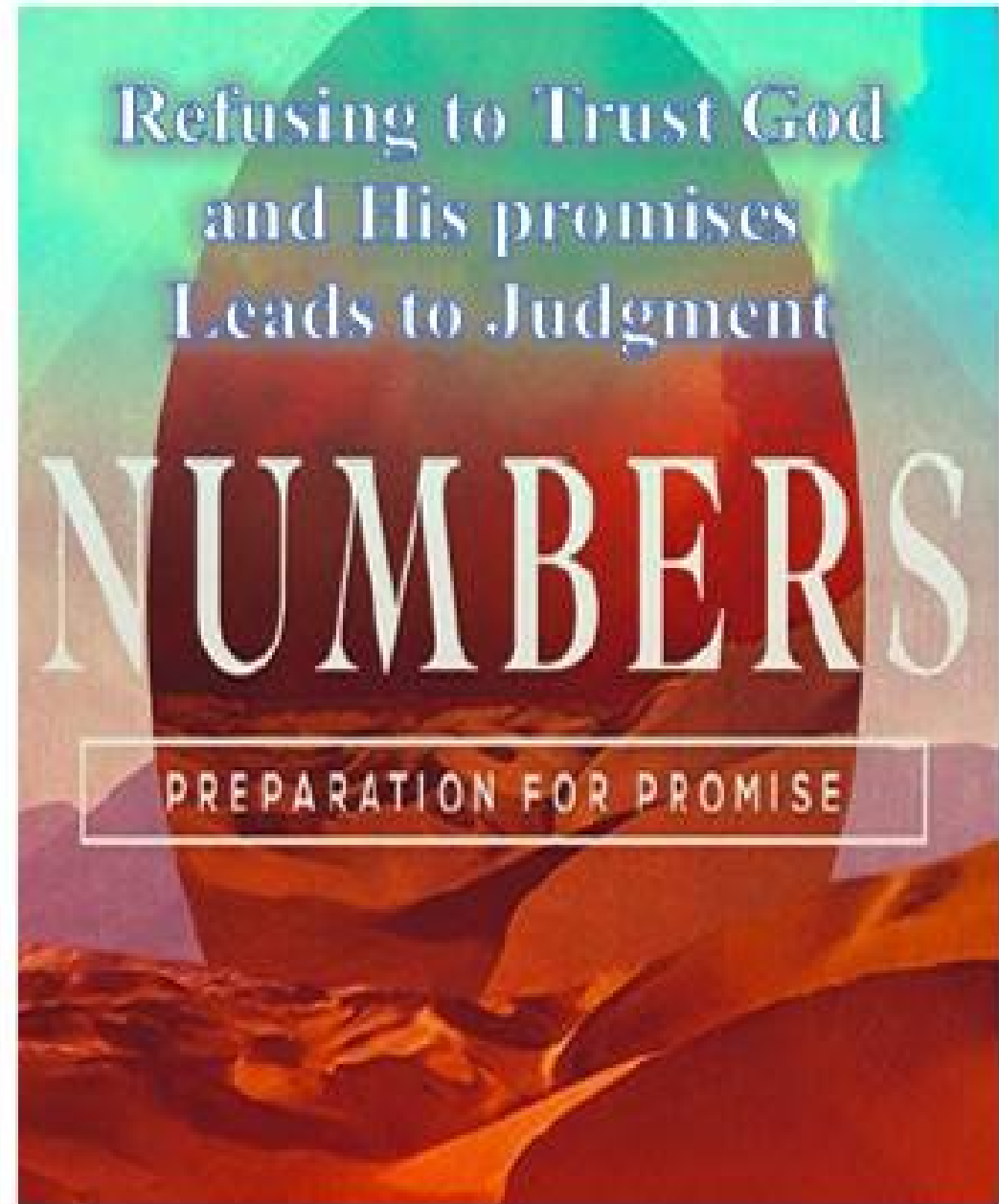
- Israel's rebellion **verses 1-9.**
- God's anger and **Moses'** intercession **verses 10-19.**
- Jehovah's judgment and the people's punishment **verses 20-38.**
- The abortive attempt to conquer Canaan **verses 39-45.**

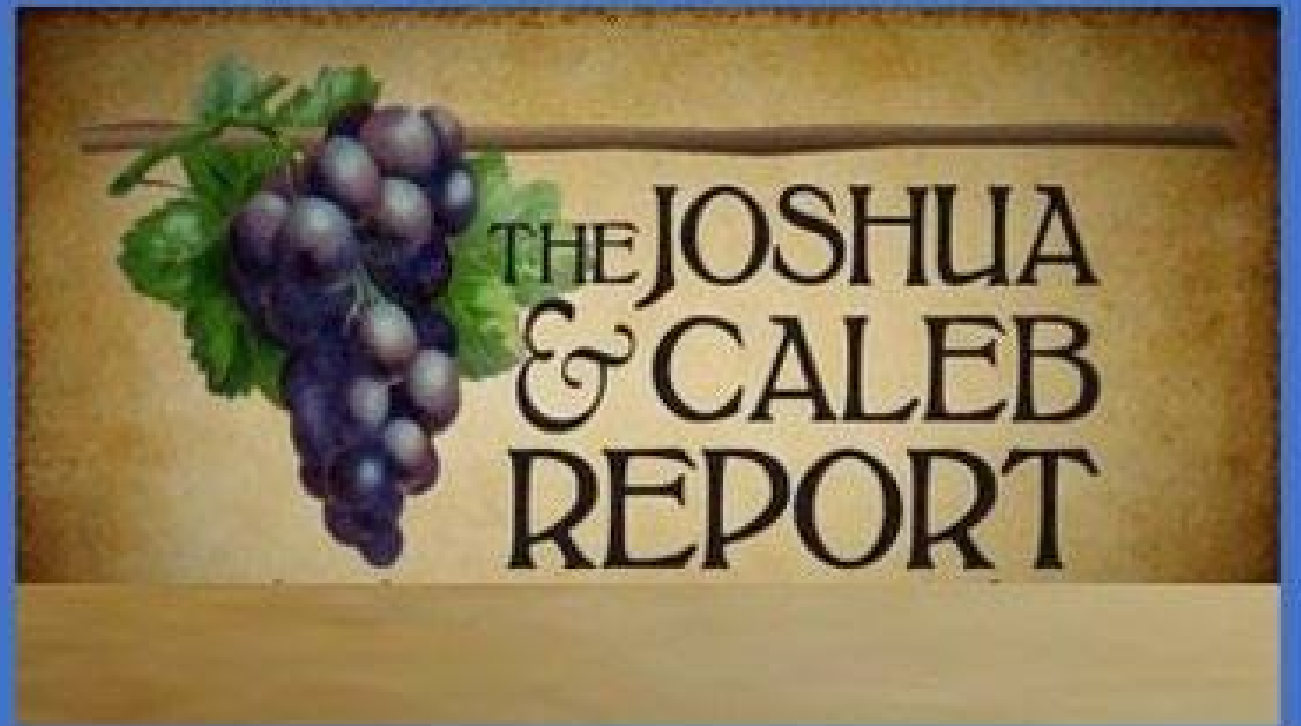
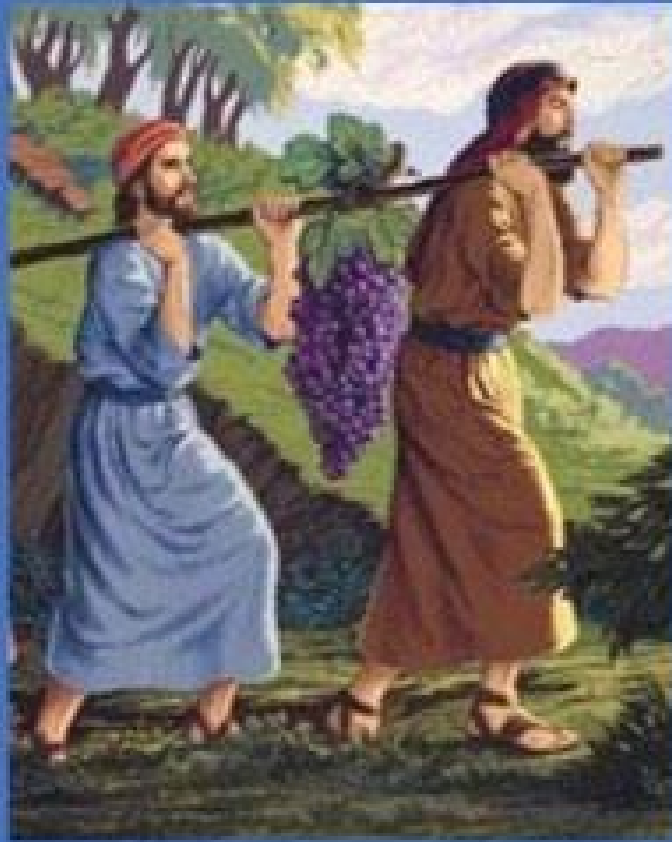


God establishes the tabernacle at the center of the camp, thus establishing worship as the center of the Israelites.

If God is not the center of all that we do, we will fail to worship him as we are called to do. We must strive to take seriously God's expectation to worship him fully.

The Israelites waited for God to lead them out into the wilderness. We have to learn to fully trust God's promise to lead us, which means that we stay put when he calls us to and we move along when he prompts us to go.





They grumbled, doubted, and feared. They failed to believe God and rebelled against Him.

The negative, unbelieving, and defeatist report of the ten spies spread among the people like wildfire on a rampage, consuming everything in its path.

What happened then was the fatal climax to a whole generation of people.

- Joshua and Caleb focused on God's presence and protection going with them into the land.

- In contrast, the Israelites focused on the powerful people who inhabited the land.

1. Make time for your faith every day. Putting in a little bit of effort on a regular basis can help you stay connected to God all the time.
2. Block out distractions. Commit your full attention to your spiritual practice. Go somewhere you won't be distracted to pray, read, and reflect.
3. Read your religious texts. Connect with God by reading and thinking about your sacred texts. Mark the passages that resonate with you, and spend extra time reflecting on them.
4. Praying daily is one of the most effective things you can do to get closer to God. Prayer is very personal, and you can pray about anything.
5. Reflect on God. As you observe the world every day, let the things you see guide your thoughts towards God.

Remember God's Promises

Three key points to remember that will help you grow your faith.

1. Remember the importance of love.
2. Remember to follow God's commands.
3. Remember salvation's price.

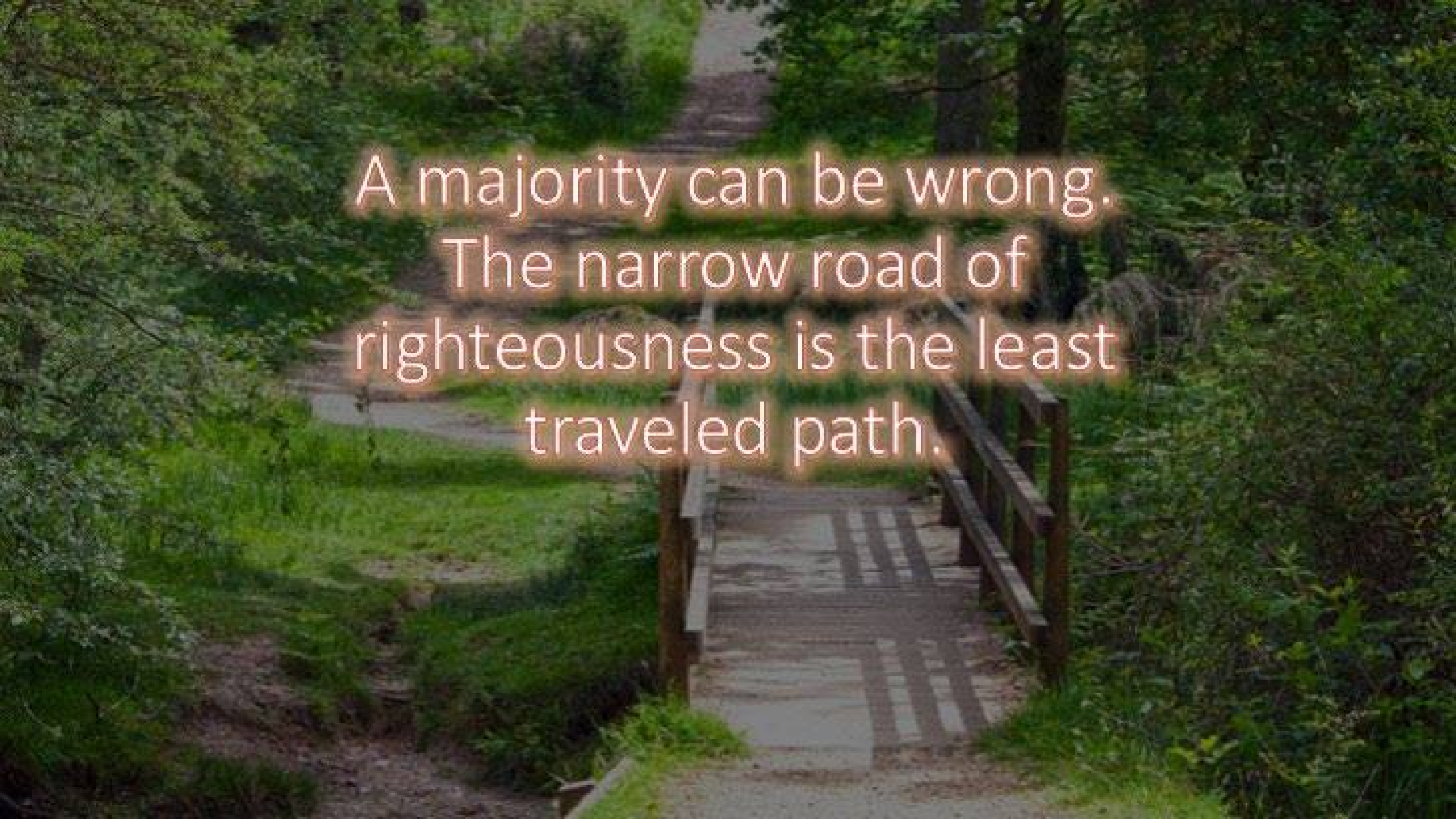
NUMBERS

PREPARATION FOR PROMISE

1. THE CHALLENGE ISSUED

(NUM.14:5-9)

The Rebellion and Disgrace of the Exodus Generation

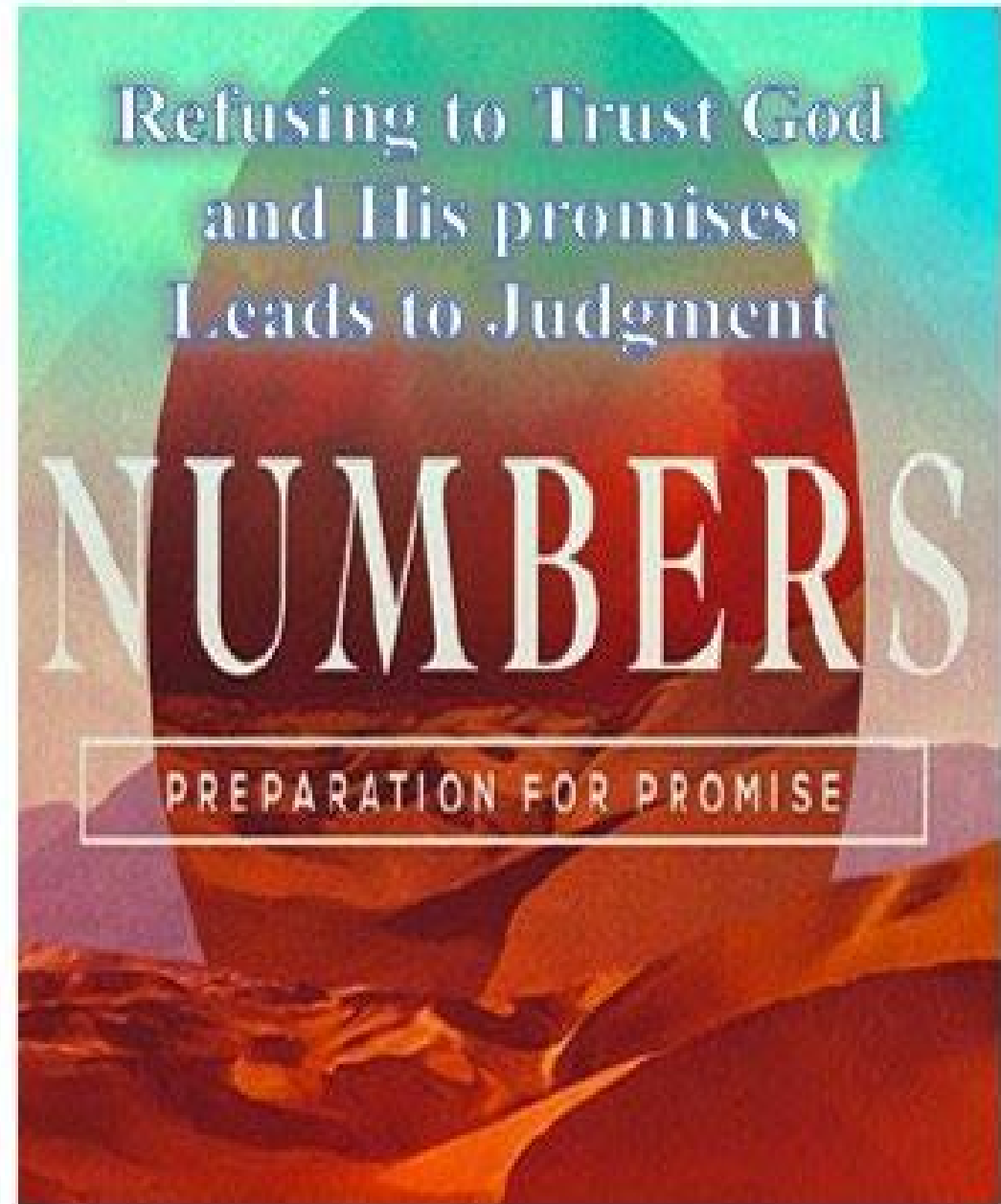
A stone staircase with wooden railings leads up a hillside through a lush green forest. The path is narrow and appears to be the least traveled, surrounded by dense foliage and trees. The text is overlaid on the image, centered and glowing with a soft orange light.

A majority can be wrong.
The narrow road of
righteousness is the least
traveled path.

Numbers 14:5 KJV

Then **Moses and **Aaron** fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.**

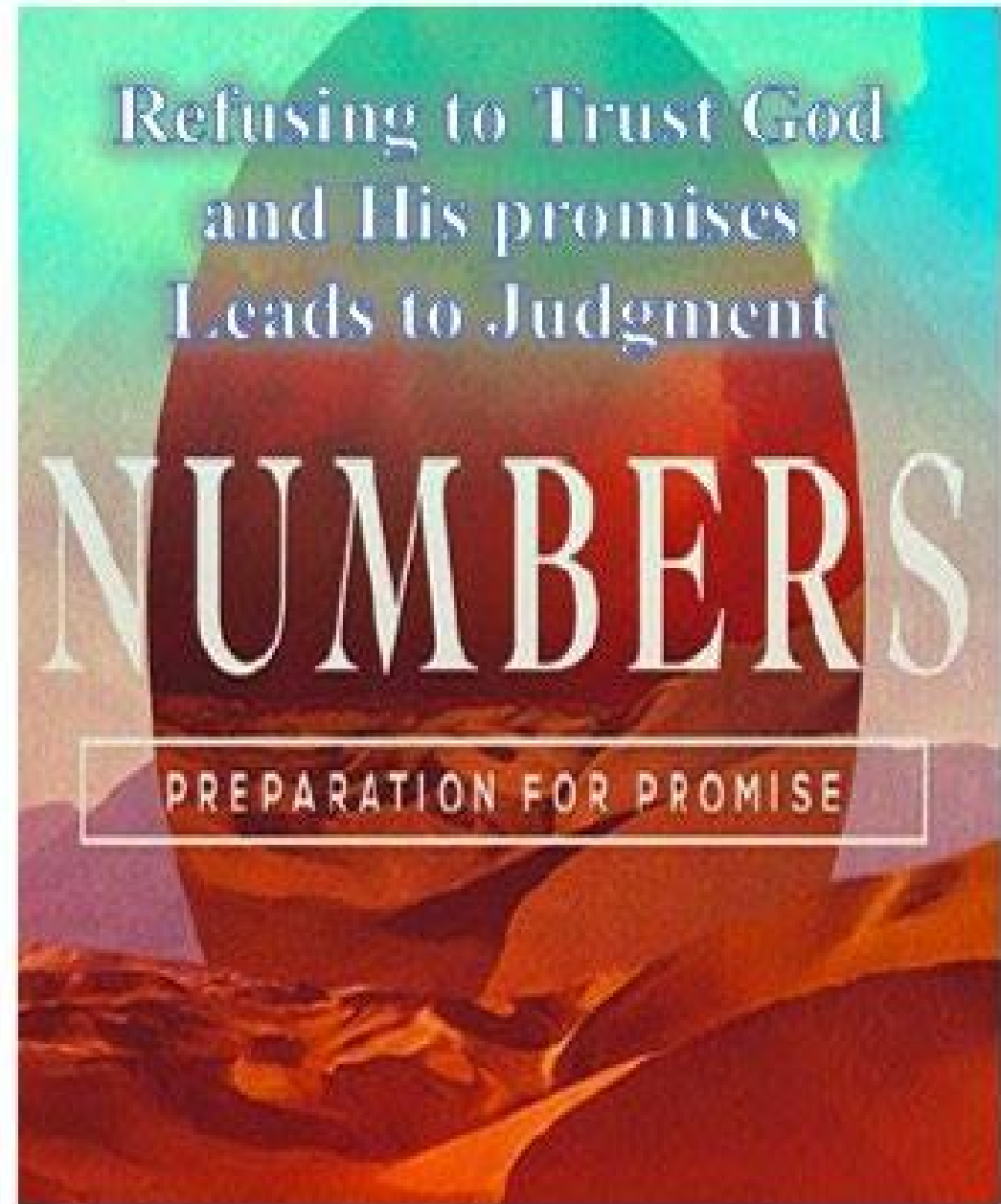
The Defiant Rebellion of the Israelites



Numbers 14:6 KJV

And **Joshua** the son of **Nun**, and **Caleb** the son of **Jephunneh**, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

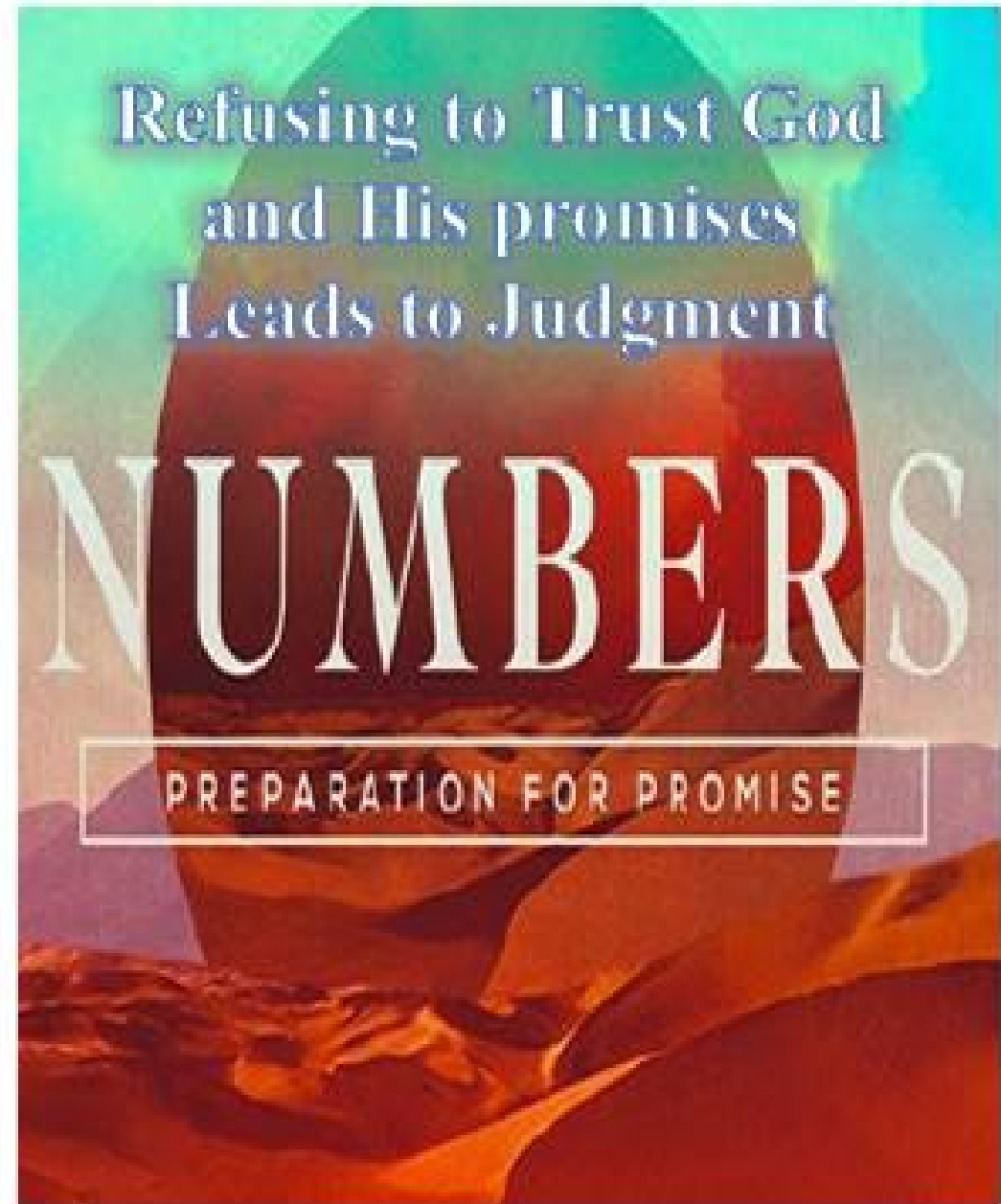
The Defiant Rebellion of the Israelites



Numbers 14:7 KJV

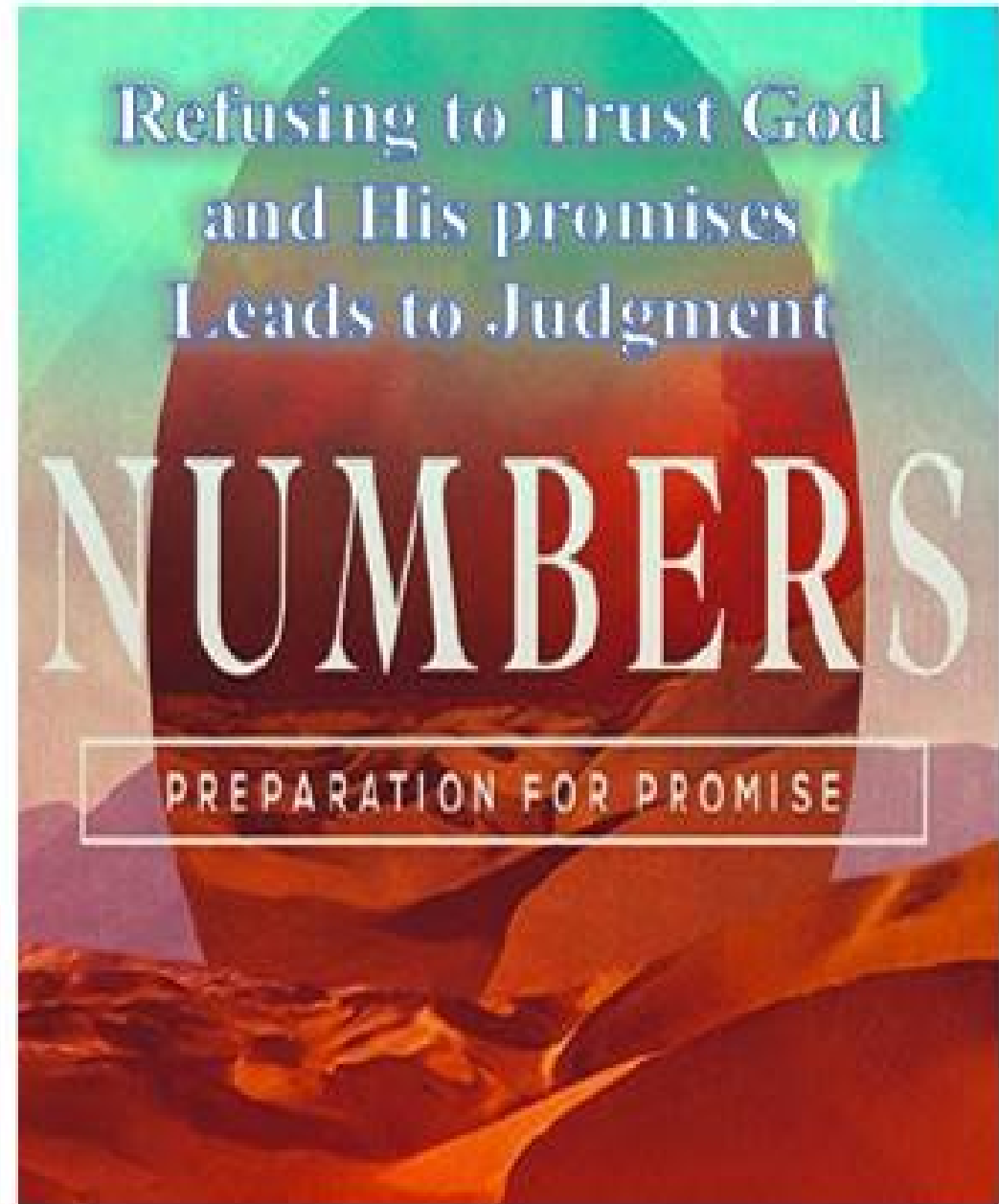
And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

The Defiant Rebellion of the Israelites



Numbers 14:8 KJV

**If the Lord delight in us,
then he will bring us
into this land, and give
it us; a land which
floweth with milk and
honey.**

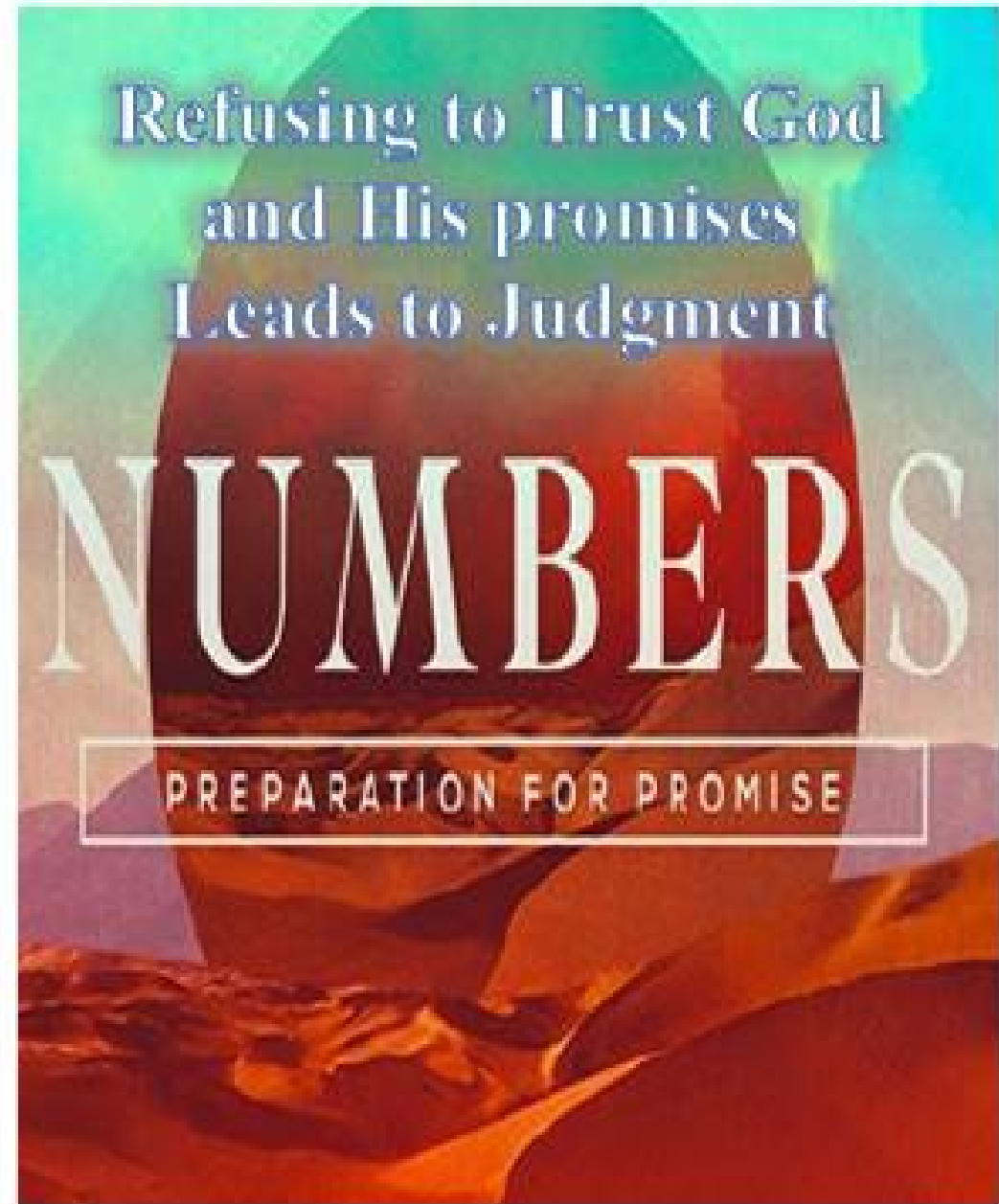


The Defiant Rebellion of the Israelites

Numbers 14:9 KJV

Only rebel not ye against the Lord, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the Lord is with us: fear them not.

The Defiant Rebellion of the Israelites



Caleb and **Joshua** attempted to calm the people's fears and to rally the people to their side, what three reasons did they give for not rebelling against God's plan for them to conquer the land of Canaan?

1. We shall be victorious.
2. Their enemies' pagan gods cannot protect them.
3. We have Yahweh on our side.

NUMBERS

PREPARATION FOR PROMISE

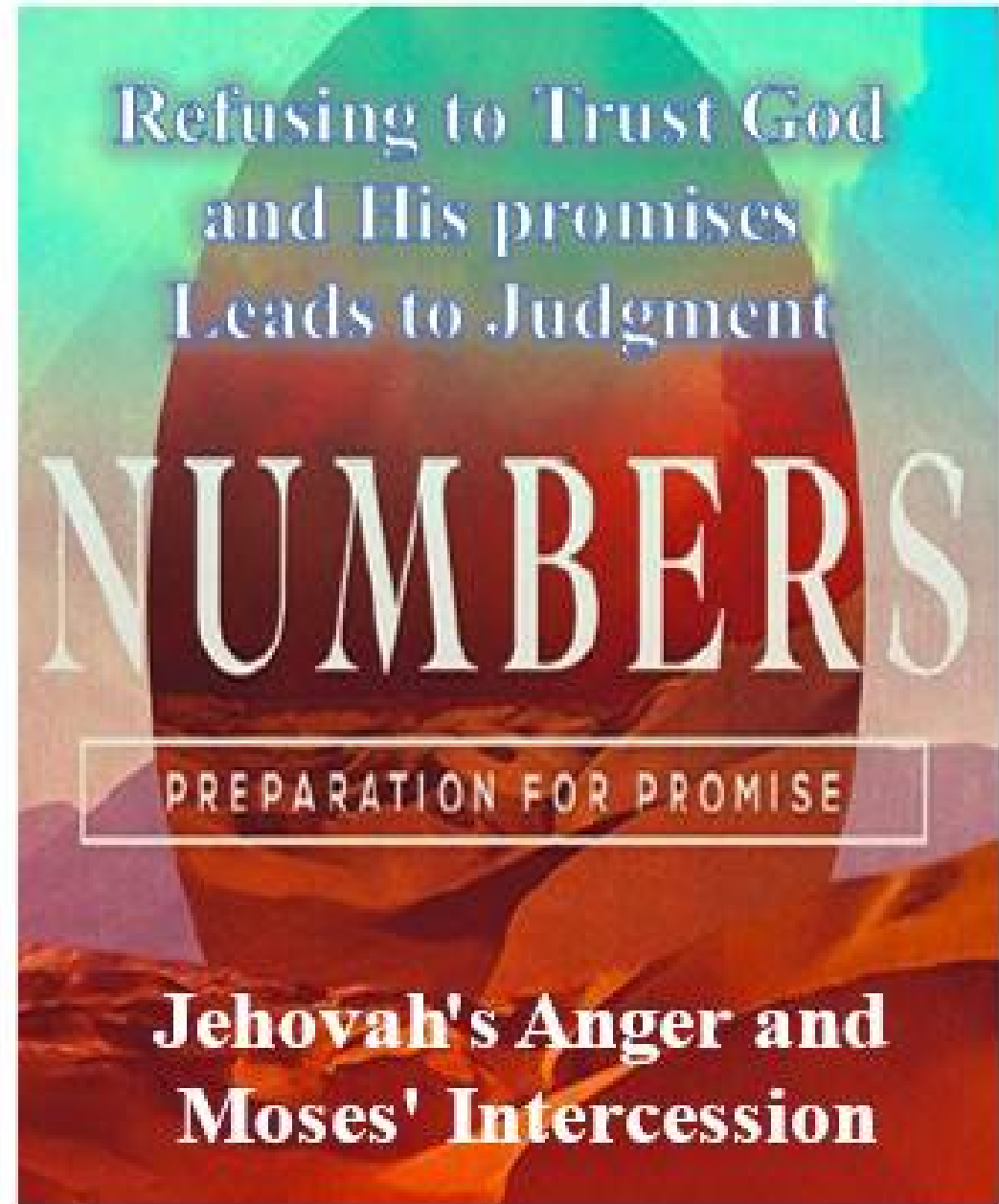
2. THE ACCOUNTABILITY COMES

(NUM.14:10-12)

The Rebellion and Disgrace of the Exodus Generation

Numbers 14:10 KJV

But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.



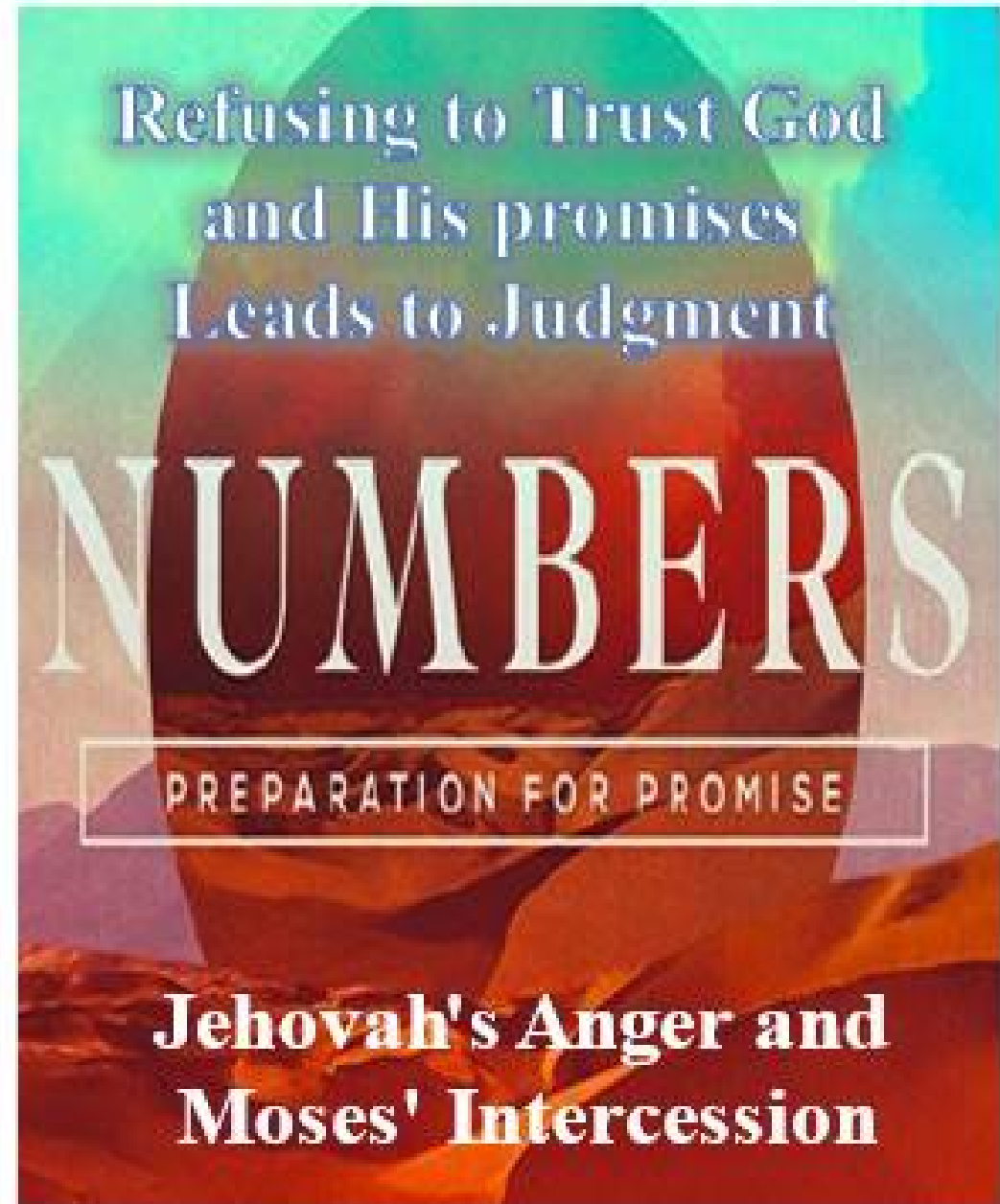
How did Yahweh intervene to save the lives of His four faithful servants: **Moses, Aaron, Joshua** and **Caleb**, before the people carried out their desire to kill them?

God revealed His glory to the entire assembly within the confines of the holy Sanctuary.

Numbers 14:11 KJV

And the Lord said unto **Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?**

Refusing to trust God is rebellion against Him



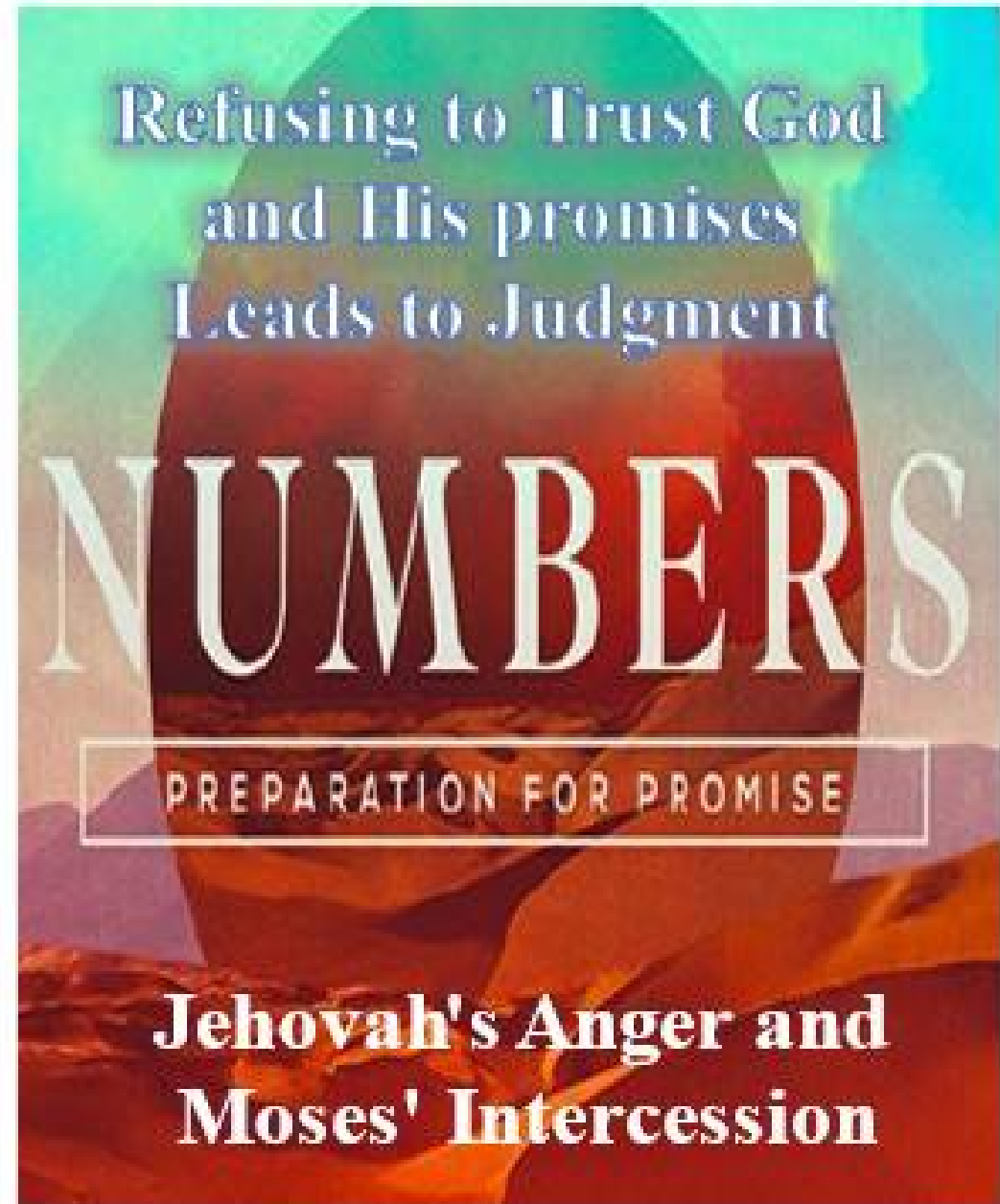
In **Numbers 14:11**, the Lord
cries out “**how long?**”

The Children of Israel defied Jehovah by threatening and made plans to return to Egypt and to appoint their own leader to take them back. It is a rebellion against God's plan for their destiny and a rejection of God's covenant mediator, **Moses**.

Numbers 14:12 KJV

I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Refusing to trust God is rebellion against Him



Jehovah's anger with the Israelites recalls what other time that God threatened to destroy the ungrateful and rebellious Israelites and to build a nation from **Moses'** descendants? **Exodus 32:7-10.**

**While God is full of love and mercy,
His character demands that He must also
be a God of justice and judgment.**

During the Golden Calf rebellion God made the same threats and the same offer to **Moses.**

NUMBERS

PREPARATION FOR PROMISE

3. THE GRACE SOUGHT

(NUM.14:13-19)

The Rebellion and Disgrace of the Exodus Generation

What arguments did **Moses** present this time to save the Israelites from destruction?

He uses two arguments:

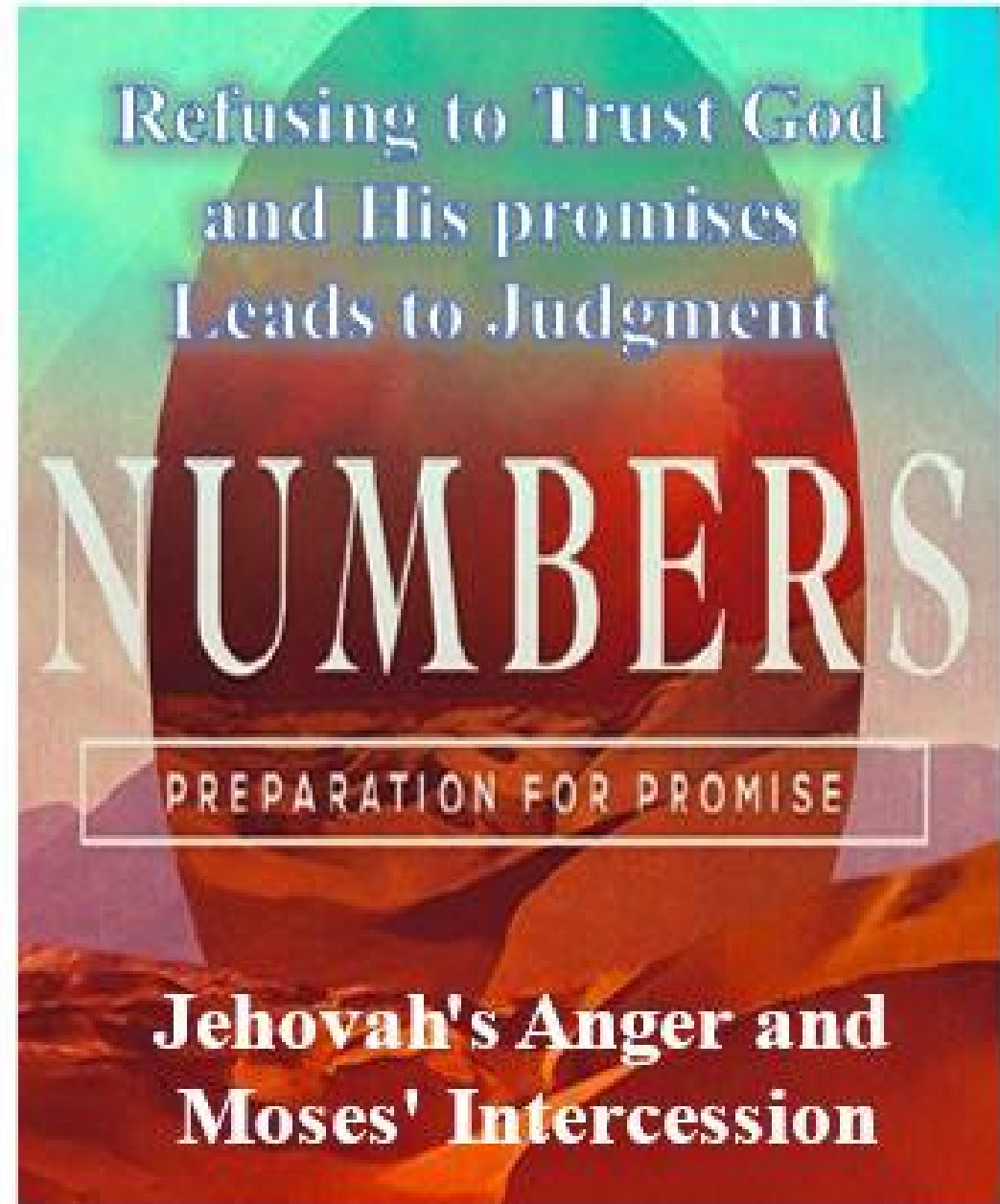
Moses first argument in **verses 13-16** he posed a theological problem How can God destroy the Israelites and still maintain His reputation to the Gentile nations who have now heard of His goodness and power and His sworn oath to the Patriarch?

Moses second argument was that such an action of unrestrained violence against the entire community was contrary to God's just and merciful nature.

Numbers 14:13 KJV

And **Moses said unto the Lord, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;)**

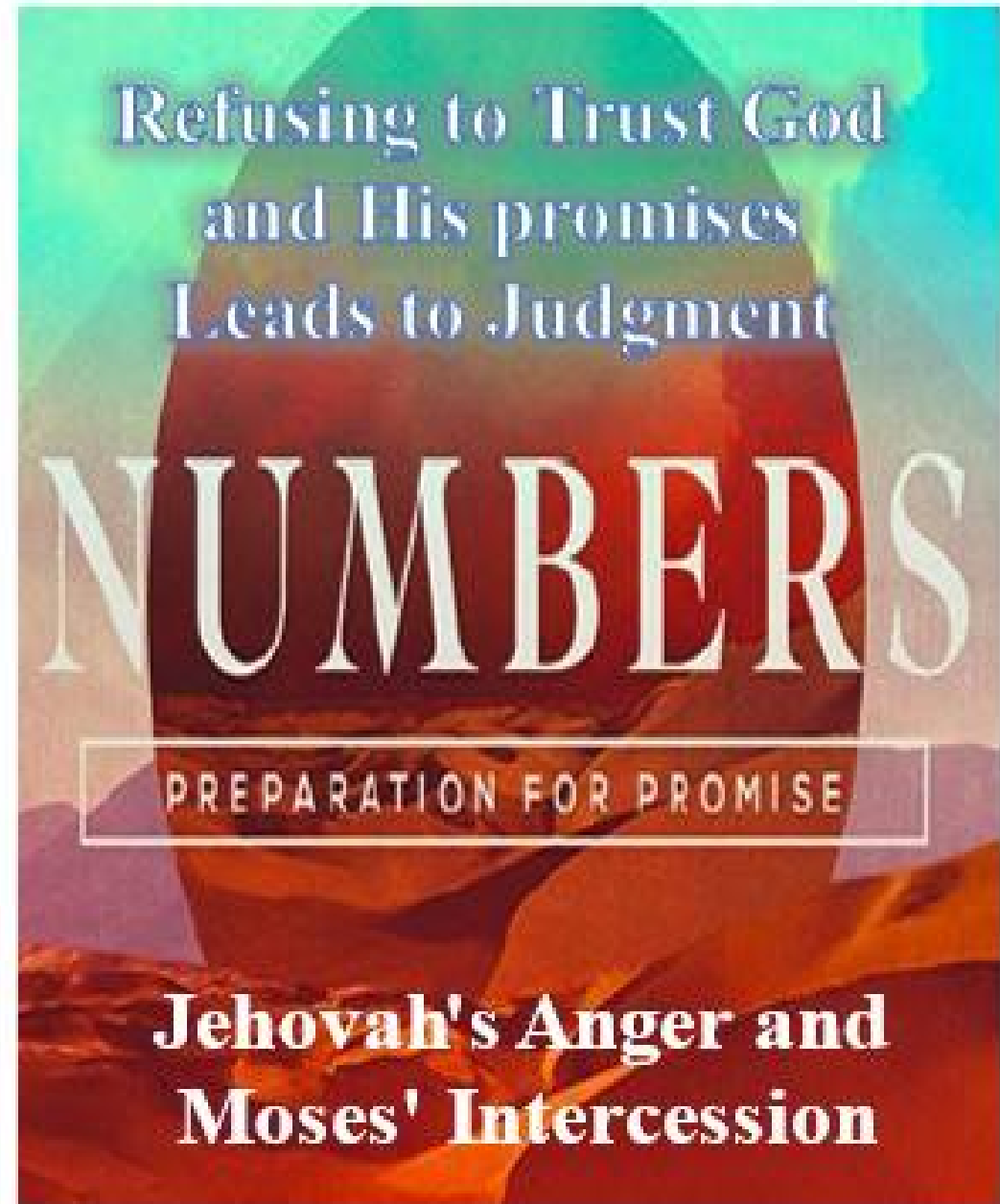
Moses didn't want God's name belittled; he wanted it strengthened in the eyes of their enemies.



Numbers 14:14 KJV

And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou Lord art among this people, that thou Lord art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by daytime in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.

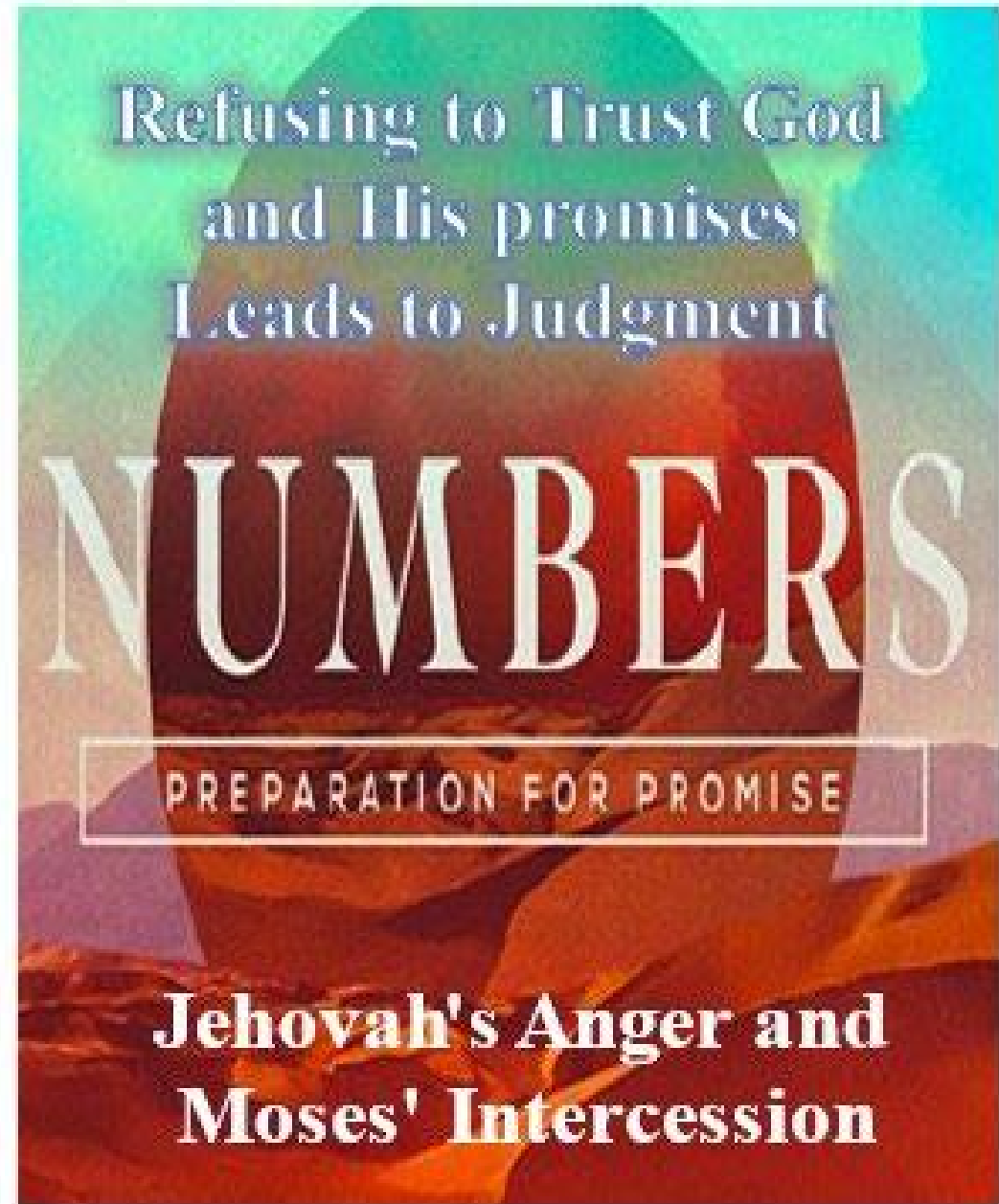
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Numbers 14:15 KJV

Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,

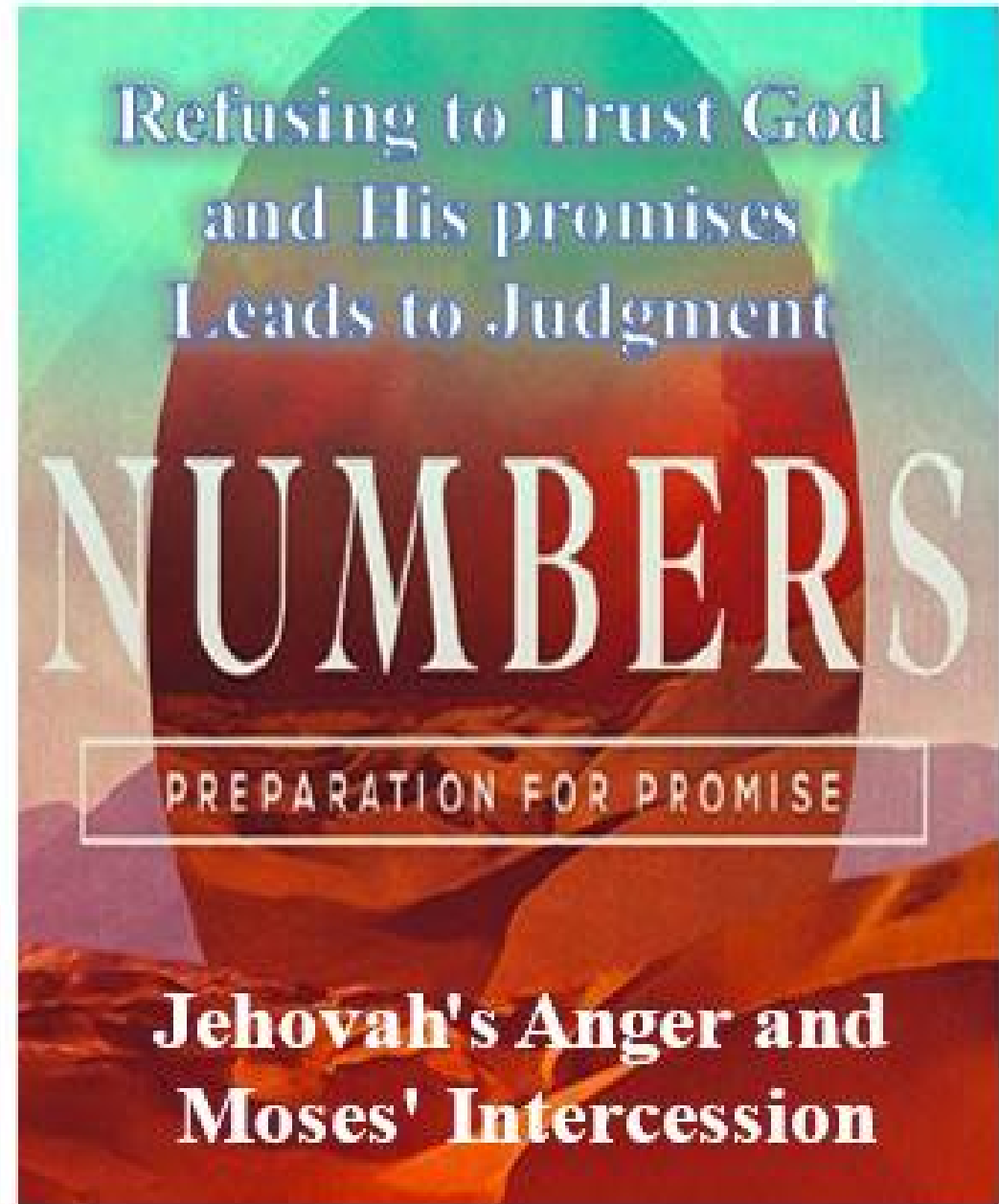
Moses didn't want God's name belittled; he wanted it strengthened in the eyes of their enemies.



Numbers 14:16 KJV

Because the Lord was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.

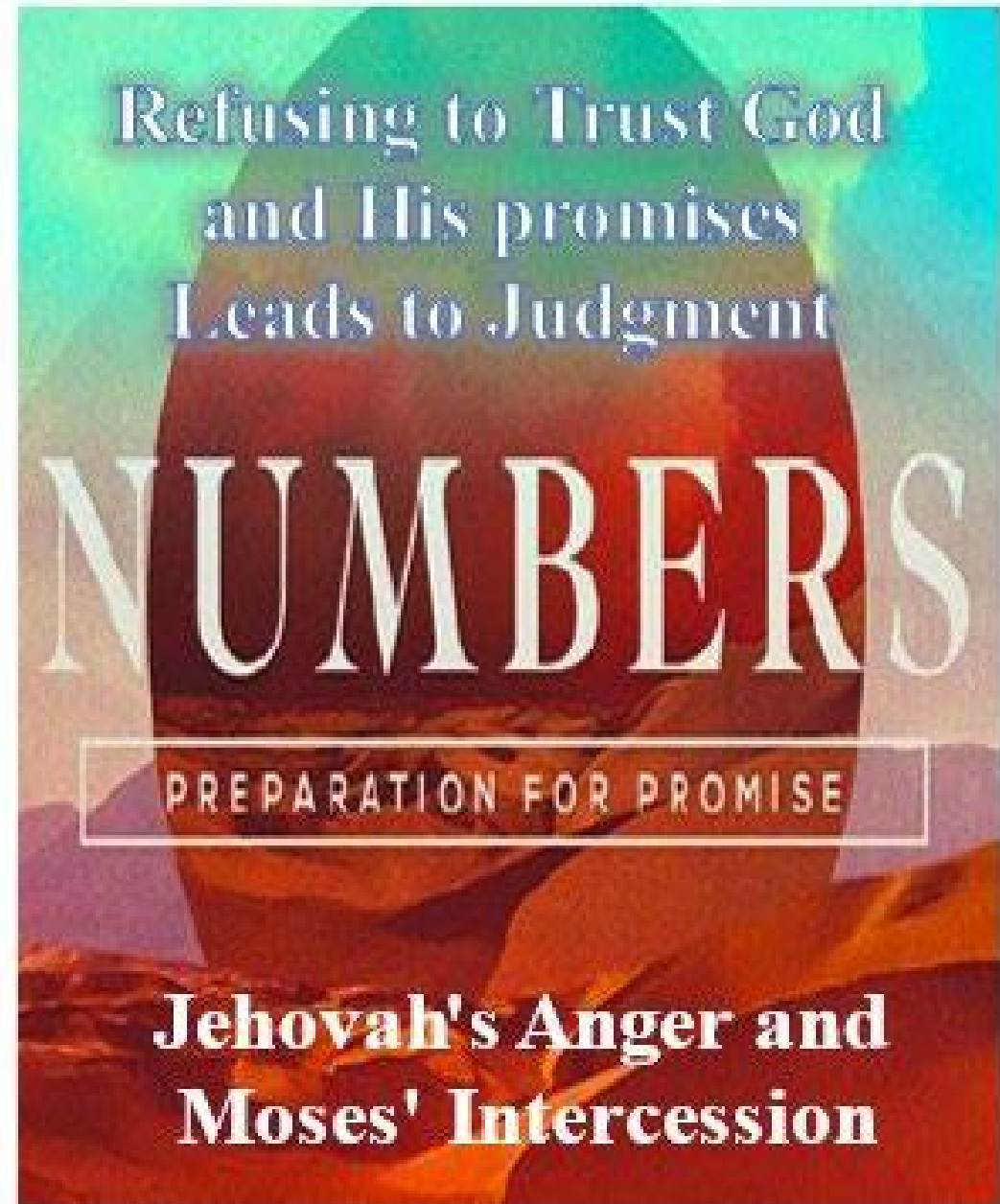
Moses didn't want God's name belittled; he wanted it strengthened in the eyes of their enemies.



Numbers 14:17 KJV

And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my Lord be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying,

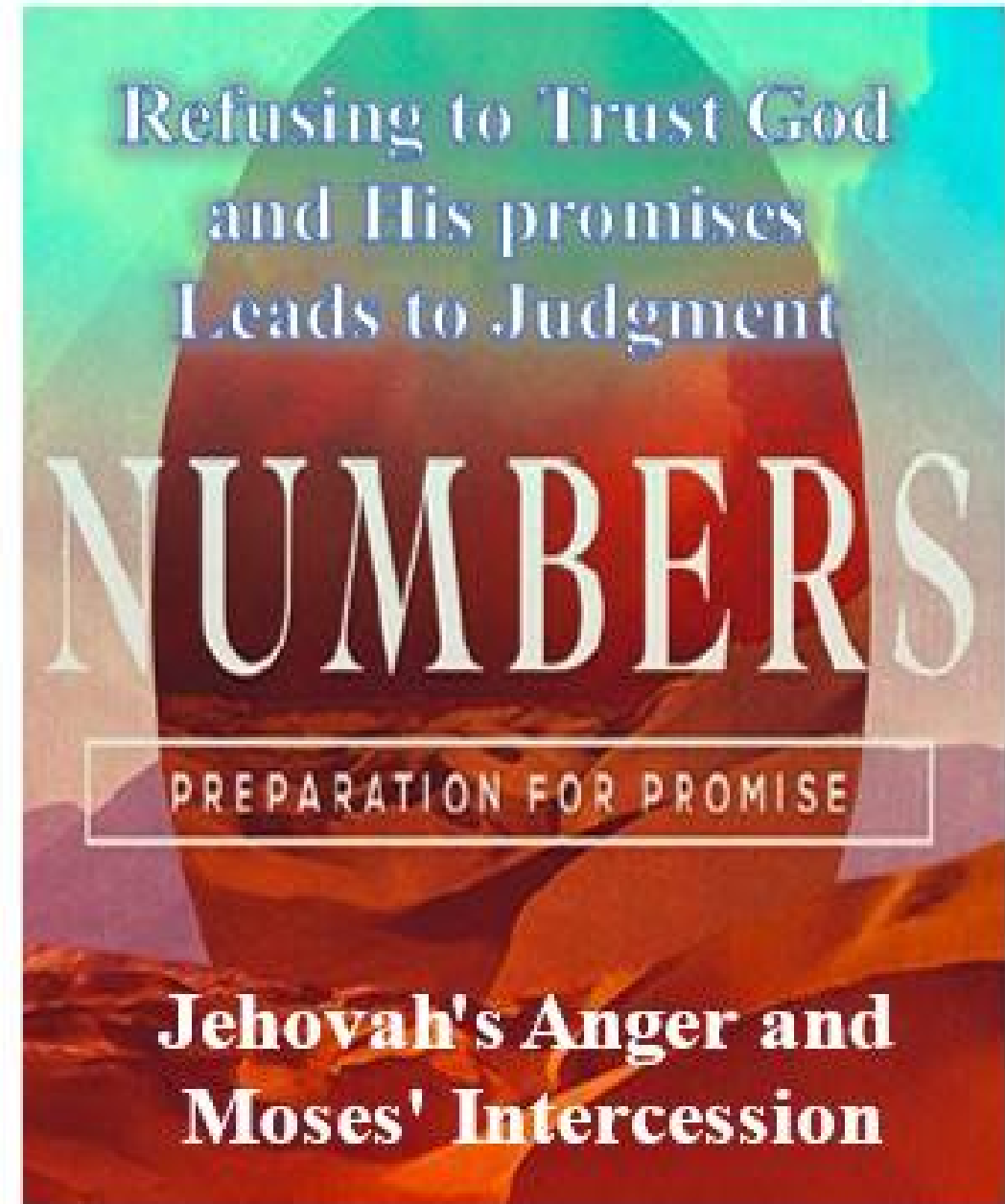
The sinful actions of one generation influence the spirituality and morality of succeeding generations.



Numbers 14:18 KJV

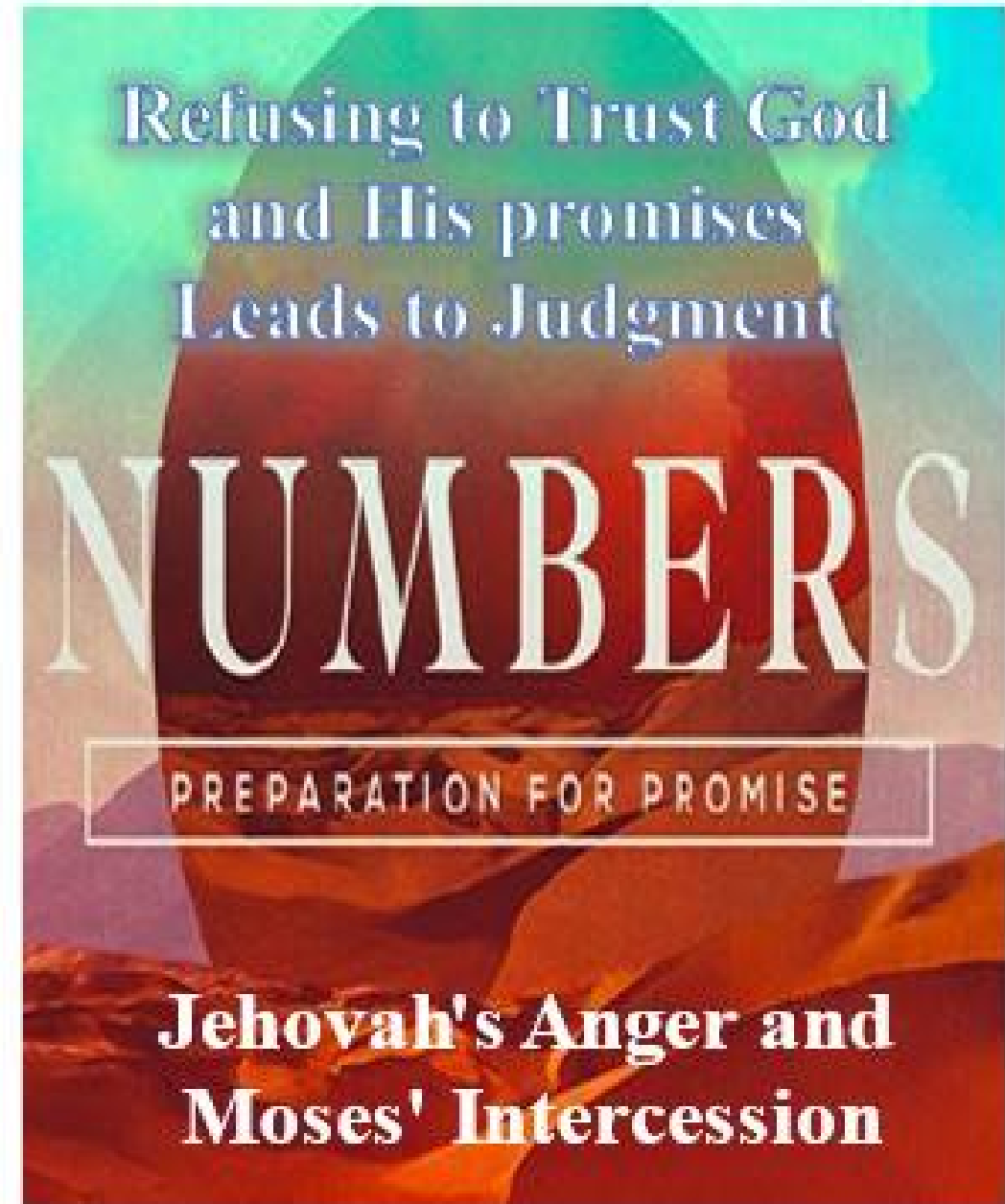
The Lord is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

The sinful actions of one generation influence the spirituality and morality of succeeding generations.



Numbers 14:19 KJV

**Pardon, I beseech thee,
the iniquity of this people
according unto the
greatness of thy mercy,
and as thou hast forgiven
this people, from Egypt
even until now.**



What was **Moses'** response to God's offer to make his descendants into a great nation instead of the Israelites?

Moses had absolutely no ambition for himself or his children. As in [Exodus 32:10](#), he did not accept God's offer to make a great nation of his descendants.

In his defense of the people in [verses 13-19](#), **Moses** brought to God's attention His divine attributes of power, compassion and justice and God's divine plan for mankind that extended beyond the Israelites to the Gentile nations of the earth.

Numbers 14:5-19

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His promises Leads to Judgment]**