

have, we divert our energy from the great task that the Lord has given us of leading souls into His kingdom and helping people to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. So I feel that when we study this incident and we ~~study~~ see that absolutely they deserved what God did, but there were other reasons that entered into what He did I believe that it should help us in our daily walk and in our understanding of our life's purposes. Now that is L. We are going to have M also because you remember I said that this section would be not only ch. 13 and 14, but also ch. 15:1-26. So as you look at it I doubt if many people looking casually at the Scripture would think of combining ch. 15:1-26 with what precedes. You read chapters 13 and 15 and here's an interesting narrative. Here are things that happened. People said certain things. People answered certain things. God did certain things. There's an interesting narrative and then we begin to get some laws. And they would say, Here's a sharp division. Now he did -- So in the story of what's happened, now we're given a series of laws. It's a different section. There ought to be a big subdivision here, a new chapter, or perhaps even a new volume. But I think that is wrong. ~~/I/~~ I think that this announcement of these laws for offerings (vs. 1-26) is a part of the story of the coming -- of the ~~spies~~ sending of the spies and of God's dealing with it. See how it begins.

(Reading 15:1-3a) . . . and goes on and gives details about these offerings. This is when you come into the land that the Lord is going to give you. You get over to vs. 19 and he says (in vs. 17-19) -- Reading text (vs. 17-19). Why should he tell people here in the wilderness two years after they left Egypt, 38 years before they reach the promised land, "When you come into the land . . ." Follow all these details about drink offerings and meat offerings, all kinds of sacrifices and all that. Why should He give it at this particular time? Did somebody write the Bk. of Num. and simply take a group of laws and a group of interesting stories and just intertwine them so that there is no reason for the jump from the one to the other. I don't think so. I think that God intended that this should be this way. And I believe that there is a very definite purpose for it. God has given these people the declaration of the punishment to come upon them for their sins. He has told them that they must wander ^{here} in the wilderness for 38 more yrs. And