

“Overthrown in the Wilderness”
I Corinthians 10:1-14

Introduction: Once an individual is converted, he or she begins their spiritual journey toward the Spirit-filled life, also known as Canaan’s land. In the Old Testament, Canaan was a land flowing with milk and honey. It was the place of fertile land, abundant grapes, and bountiful harvests. Canaan was a land to be desired. In typology, this is also true concerning the life that is filled with the Spirit. Great blessings and spiritual riches awaits the seeking saint. Paul is reminding the carnal Corinthians in this chapter about this truth. He is using the illustration of the Israelites on their journey from Egypt, through the Red Sea, and the Wilderness to open up their eyes to their failures as a believer. Observe:

1. The Protection of the Israelites v. 1- *“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea”*
 - a. Presenting an Admonition- *“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant”*
 - b. Protection from the Atmosphere- *“how that all our fathers were under the cloud” Exodus 13:21-22*
 - c. Protection from the Army- *“and all passed through the sea” Exodus 14:22*
2. The Partnership of the Israelites v. 2- *“And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea”*
 - a. Their Identification with Moses- *“And were all baptized unto Moses”*
 - b. The Immersion with Moses- *“in the cloud and in the sea”*
 1. “The picture is plain enough.” (RWP)
 2. “The mystic cloud covered the people while the sea rose in walls on each side of them as they marched across.” (RWP)
 3. “The immersion was complete for all of them in the sea around them and the cloud over them.” (RWP)
 4. “Moses was their leader then as Christ is now and so Paul uses...concerning the relation of the Israelites to Moses as he does of our baptism in relation to Christ.” (RWP)
3. The Provision for the Israelites vs. 3-4- *“...spiritual meat...spiritual drink...”*
 - a. In Diet v. 3- *“And did all eat the same spiritual meat” Exodus 16:15*
 - (1) “The reference is to the manna which is termed ‘spiritual’ by reason of its supernatural character.” (RWP)
 - (2) “Jesus called himself the true bread from heaven which the manna typified.” (RWP)
 - b. In Drink v. 4- *“And did all drink the same spiritual drink” Exodus 17:6*
 - (1) Drink from a Pursuing Rock- *“for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them”*
 - (2) Drink from a Powerful Rock- *“and that Rock was Christ”*
4. The Perishing of the Israelites v. 5- *“they were overthrown in the wilderness”*
 - a. The Pleasure of the Israelites- *“But with many of them God was not well pleased”*

Revelation 4:11- *“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created”*

- b. The Prostration of the Israelites- *“for they were overthrown in the wilderness”*
Numbers 14:16- *“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”*

Body: One thing is certain, and that is that the Lord desires the best for His children. We see this in Deuteronomy 6:23. *“And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers.”* From this passage, we observe how the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt and made them bound for the promise land. However, because of their sins they were not able to reach that land and died in the wilderness. What brought their destruction? Paul lists the sins for us that we might not follow their example. Therefore, we must shun:

- I. Sensual Problems v. 6- *“we should not lust after evil things”* Numbers 11:4
 - A. Our Insight- *“Now these things were our examples”*
 - B. Our Intent- *“to the intent”*
 - C. Our Impulses- *“we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted”*

- II. Spiritual Problems v. 7- *“Neither be ye idolaters”* I Corinthians 8:4, 1-13, 10:14-33, Exodus 32:1-6, 17-19
 - A. Their Religion- *“Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them”*
 - B. Their Remembrance- *“as it is written”*
 - C. Their Resting- *“The people sat down to eat and drink”*
 - D. Their Raising- *“and rose up to play”*

- III. Sexual Problems v. 8- *“Neither let us commit fornication”* I Corinthians 5:1, Numbers 25:1-9
 - A. Their Decision- *“Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed”* I Corinthians 6:18, 7:2
 - B. Their Destruction- *“and fell in one day three and twenty thousand”*

- IV. Satisfaction Problems v. 9- *“Neither let us tempt Christ”* Numbers 21:4-9
 - A. Their Decision- *“Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted”*
 - 1. The Hardened Heart Hebrews 3:8- *“Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness”*
 - a. Hebrews 3:15- *“While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation”*
 - b. Hebrews 4:7- *“Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts”*
 - 2. The Erring Heart Hebrews 3:10- *“Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways”*

3. The Evil Heart Hebrews 3:12- *“Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God”*
 - B. Their Destruction- *“and were destroyed of serpents”*
- V. Speech Problems v. 10- *“Neither murmur ye”* II Corinthians 12:20
- A. Their Decision- *“Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured”*
 1. Exodus 15:23-24
 2. Exodus 16:1-3, 7-9, 12
 3. Exodus 17:1-3
 4. Numbers 14:1-2, 26-33, 35-37
 5. Numbers 16:11, 41
 6. Numbers 17:5, 10
 7. Deuteronomy 1:25-28
 - B. Their Destruction- *“and were destroyed of the destroyer”* Hebrews 3:17-19, I Corinthians 11:29-30

Conclusion: It is because of these sins that the Israelites tempted Christ, provoked the Holy One of Israel, and died in the wilderness. This is a stern warning to the Corinthians and to all believers to avoid sins that destroy our spiritual life. Therefore, realizing the danger of obeying the lusts of our flesh, Paul gives a final exhortation to the Corinthians. Notice:

1. Our Example v. 11- *“all these things happened unto them for ensamples”*
 - a. The Example- *“Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples”*
 - b. The Exhortation- *“and they are written for our admonition”*
 - c. The End- *“upon whom the ends of the world are come”*
2. Our Ego v. 12- *“let him that thinketh he standeth take heed”*
 - a. A Preconceived Feeling- *“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth”*
 - b. A Possible Fact- *“take heed lest he fall”* I Corinthians 9:27, Galatians 6:1
3. Our Escape v. 13- *“with the temptation also make a way to escape”*
 - a. Temptation is Common- *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man”*
 - b. Temptation is Controlled- *“but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able”*
 - c. Temptation is Conquerable- *“but will with the temptation also make a way to escape”*
 - d. Temptation is Carried- *“that ye may be able to bear it”*
4. Our Exercise v. 14- *“flee from idolatry”*
 - a. A Fervent Warning- *“Wherefore, my dearly beloved”*
 - b. A Fleeing of Wickedness- *“flee from idolatry”*