

THE PENALTY FOR INADEQUATE FAITH

Scripture: Deuteronomy 1:2, 2:13-15, 3:23-26
Ecclesiastes 11:4

Introduction

A desert journey of 11 days took 38 years to complete because of the faithlessness of the Israelites.

- I. God wanted to take Israel on a short journey to Canaan
(There are eleven days' journey from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadesh-Barnea.)

Deuteronomy 1:2

- A. God's design was to take Israel to Canaan in weeks
B. The shortest route to Canaan normally took two weeks

- II. A short journey is extended by faithlessness

Now rise up, said I, and get you over the brook Zered. And we went over the brook Zered.

And the space in which we came from Kadesh-Barnea, until we were come over the brook Zered, was thirty and eight years; until the generation of the men of war were wasted out from among the host, as the Lord swore unto them.

For indeed the hand of the Lord was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed.

Deuteronomy 2:13-15

- A. Unbelief prevented using the fast route
B. Unbelief caused a 38 year delay

- III. A promise is withdrawn because of presumption

And I besought the Lord at that time, saying,

O Lord God, thou hast begun to shew thy servant thy greatness, and thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth, that can do according to thy works, and according to thy might?

I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordan, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon.

But the Lord was wroth with me for your sakes, and would not hear me; and the Lord said unto me, Let it suffice thee; speak no more unto me of this matter.

Deuteronomy 3:23-26

- A. Moses asks for grace to be allowed to enter Canaan
B. God says, Never bring it up again