

DEATH IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 26:65

Who are they and why are they dying?

I. THE SIN: Israel's Failure

- Numbers 13:30-14:10

A. THE SPIES BAD REPORT - Numbers 13:25-33

B. THE PEOPLE'S BOISTEROUS REBELLION - Numbers 14:1-10

1. Grumbling (1-3)
2. Going back (4)
3. Grievous plans (10)

II. THE SENTANCE: God's Intervention

- Numbers 14:26-34

A. GOD'S QUESTION (26-27)

B. GOD'S COMMAND (28-35)

1. To the adults
 - a. Your corpses will fall (29, 32)
 - b. Your corpses will lie in the wilderness (33)
 - c. You will know my opposition (34)
 - d. You shall be destroyed (35)
2. About the children
 - a. They will enter the Promised Land (31)
 - b. They will suffer for your unfaithfulness (33)

III. THE SUMMARY: Old Testament Commentators

A. MOSES' REMINDER - Numbers 26:65

B. A PSALMIST'S ACCOUNT - Psalm 106:24-27

C. EZEKIEL'S REPORT - Ezekiel 20:13

IV. A SURVEY: Some practical realities

A. THE NUMBER OF DEATHS

1. Statistically
 - a. From Numbers 1:46 we know that there were 603,550 men over 20
 - b. Since they were married the number doubles to 1,207,100 men and women
 - c. All of these died within a period of 40 years or 14,600 days
 - d. The death rate was therefore: 82.67 per day or 3.44/ hour or one every 17.44 minutes
2. Illustratively: Arlington National Cemetery
 - About 400,000 people buried on 624 acres since 1864

B. THE NATURE OF BURIAL

1. Most the of the Sanai peninsula is hot and sandy
2. Since predators roamed the area guards were probably needed at all times

V. A SUMMONS: New Testament Instruction

- I Corinthians 10:1-13

A. BEHOLD (5) > God's punishment

B. BEHAVE (6-10) > These are examples for us

1. No Incurability (v.6) > See Num. 11:4-6
2. No Idolatry (v.7) > See Ex. 32:1-20
3. No Immorality (v.8) > See Num. 25:1-9 and 31:16
4. No Impatience (v.9) > See Num. 21:5
5. No Ingratitude (v.10) > See Num. 16:41-50

C. BE AWARE (11) > Their situation is an instructive example that should benefit us

D. BEWARE (12) > Avoid self-reliance and pride

E. BELIEVE (13) > Temptation can be overcome

CONCLUSION:

Let us always remember that "God is a just judge, And God is angry *with the wicked* every day. (Psalm 7:11 NKJ)

Might we walk in obedience and avoid God's angst!