

# **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!**