

## Christians Must Avoid the Israelites' Mistakes

### Introduction:

1. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, some very important instructions are given that deserve our careful attention.
2. These instructions are based on God's dealings with the Israelites.
  - a. God blessed the Israelites in many ways: by delivering them from Egypt, by providing food and water for them, and by providing direction and protection for them (vs.1-4).
  - b. However, God was not pleased with many of the Israelites -- they were not allowed to enter the Promised Land (vs.5).
  - c. Christians are admonished to avoid the mistakes of the Israelites (vs.6, 11).
  - d. Their mistakes included:
    - 1) idolatry (vs.7)
    - 2) fornication (vs.8)
    - 3) tempting the Lord (vs.9)
    - 4) and murmuring (vs.10).
  - e. Rather than trust in ourselves, we are to depend upon God during the time of temptation (vs.12-13).
3. In the first of several lessons based on these passages, we are concentrating on the information presented in vs.1-6.

### Discussion:

- I. (vs.1-4) GOD RICHLY BLESSED THE ISRAELITES
  - A. Additional details of God's blessings are given in the book of Exodus.
    1. God sent Moses to Egypt to lead the Israelites to Canaan (Exodus 3:7-10).
    2. The Israelites eventually left Egypt after God afflicted Pharaoh and his people with the plagues (Exodus 12:29-38).
    3. God provided direction for the Israelites by day and night (Exodus 13:20-22).
    4. God parted the Red Sea so the Israelites could go through on dry ground (Exodus 14:19-22).
    5. After the Israelites passed through, God destroyed the Egyptian army in the Red Sea (Exodus 14:27-31).
    6. God provided food for the Israelites (Exodus 16:13-15).
    7. God also provided water for the Israelites (Exodus 17:5-6).
    8. God's Angel accompanied the Israelites (Exodus 23:20-25).
  - B. Even though He richly blessed His people in various ways, . . .
- II. (vs.5) GOD WAS NOT WELL PLEASSED WITH MANY OF THE ISRAELITES
  - A. They "*were overthrown in the wilderness.*"
  - B. God caused the Israelites to wander in the wilderness until the older generation died (Numbers 14:26-35).
- III. (vs.6) THESE THINGS WERE WRITTEN FOR THE BENEFIT OF CHRISTIANS
  - A. Even though God richly blessed the Israelites, they did not remain faithful to Him.
    1. They participated in the sinful activities listed in vs.7-10.
    2. God punished the Israelites by not allowing them to enter the Promised Land.
  - B. To spend eternity in heaven, Christians must avoid the Israelites' mistakes.
  - C. This principle is also stressed in Hebrews 3:7-19; 4:1.