

Christians Must Avoid the Israelites' Mistakes

Introduction:

1. In 1 Corinthians 10:1-13, Christians are given some very important instructions that are based on God's dealings with the Israelites.
2. Some general matters are discussed in vs.1-6.
 - a. According to vs.1-4, God blessed the Israelites by delivering them from Egypt, by providing food and water for them, and by providing direction and protection for them.
 - b. We learn from vs.5, however, that God was not pleased with many of the Israelites, and He prevented them from entering the Promised Land.
 - c. In vs.6, Christians are admonished to avoid the mistakes of the Israelites.
3. More specifically, we are shown:
 - a. in vs.7 that Christians must not be "*idolaters*"
 - b. in vs.8 that Christians must not "*commit fornication*"
 - c. in vs.9 that Christians must not "*tempt Christ*"
 - d. in vs.10 that Christians must not "*murmur.*"
4. Murmur: to grumble, to complain because of discontentment
5. This definition of murmuring is illustrated in the Lord's "parable of the laborers in the vineyard" (Matthew 20:1-16).
 - a. (vs.1-7) Workers were hired throughout the day to work in a man's vineyard.
 - b. (vs.8-9) All the workers were paid the same wage in the evening.
 - c. (vs.10-12) The workers who had worked the longest murmured because they felt they deserved more pay.
6. Since the instruction given in 1 Corinthians 10:10 is based on events that involved the Israelites, let us first examine . . .

Discussion:

- I. MURMURING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
 - A. The Israelites murmured on many occasions as they traveled to the Promised Land.
 1. They murmured because they had no fresh water (Exodus 15:22-24).
 2. They murmured because they had no food (Exodus 16:1-3, 11-12).
 3. They murmured because they needed water (Exodus 17:1-3).
 4. They murmured after hearing the report of the ten spies (Numbers 14:1-4, 26-30).
 - B. The occasion under consideration in 1 Corinthians 10:10 is when Korah led a rebellion against Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16:1-3, 31-33, 41, 49).
 - C. On the basis of this information, let us turn our attention to . . .
- II. MURMURING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
 - A. The Jews often murmured against Jesus and His disciples because He associated with sinners (Luke 5:30; 15:2; 19:7).
 - B. The Jews murmured against Jesus because of His teaching (John 6:41).
 - C. The Lord's followers murmured against Mary when she anointed Him with expensive ointment (Mark 14:3-5; John 12:3).
 - D. In the Jerusalem congregation, the Grecians murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected (Acts 6:1).
 - E. To help us overcome and avoid murmuring, let us:
 1. understand that Jesus forbids His followers to murmur (John 6:43)
 2. realize that Jesus knows when His followers murmur (John 6:61)
 3. practice the admonition given in Philippians 2:14-15: "*Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.*"