

1 Corinthians 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

Analysis

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea—Paul introduces Israel's exodus as *typoi* (τύποι, "types" or "examples") for Christian experience. The *nephele* (νεφέλη, "cloud") represents God's protective presence (Exodus 13:21-22), while passing through the Red Sea prefigures baptism.

Paul addresses Corinthian confidence in sacramental security—they assumed baptism and the Lord's Supper guaranteed salvation regardless of behavior. By stating **I would not that ye should be ignorant**, he signals a corrective teaching. All Israel experienced the cloud and sea-crossing, yet many perished in the wilderness. Privilege doesn't guarantee perseverance.

The phrase **our fathers** includes Gentile believers in Israel's covenant history, showing the church's continuity with Old Testament Israel. Christian identity is rooted in redemptive history, making Israel's failures urgent warnings for the church.

Historical Context

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians around 55 CE from Ephesus to address divisions and moral failures in Corinth. This section responds to questions about eating meat offered to idols (8:1ff). Some Corinthians, confident in their "knowledge," attended

pagan temple meals, assuming their Christian status protected them. Paul uses Israel's wilderness rebellion (Numbers 13-14, 25; Exodus 32) to warn against presumption.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What spiritual privileges do you possess (baptism, church membership, biblical knowledge) that might tempt you toward presumption rather than humble dependence?
2. How does viewing yourself as part of Israel's redemptive story change your understanding of God's Old Testament warnings?
3. In what areas of life are you relying on past spiritual experiences rather than present faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

Οὐ	θέλω	δὲ	ὑμᾶς	ἀγνοεῖν	ἀδελφοί	ὅτι	οἱ
not	I would	Moreover	that ye	should be ignorant	brethren	how that	G3588
G3756	G2309	G1161	G5209	G50	G80	G3754	

πατέρες	ἡμῶν	πάντες	ὑπὸ	τὴν	νεφέλην	ἦσαν	καὶ
fathers	our	all	under	G3588	the cloud	were	and
G3962	G2257	G3956	G5259		G3507	G2258	G2532

πάντες	διὰ	τῆς	θαλάσσης	διήλθον
all	through	G3588	the sea	passed
G3956	G1223		G2281	G1330

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 14:29 (Parallel theme): But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Psalms 105:39 (Parallel theme): He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.

Hebrews 11:29 (Parallel theme): By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

Psalms 78:53 (Parallel theme): And he led them on safely, so that they feared not: but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

Psalms 66:6 (Parallel theme): He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him.

Nehemiah 9:19 (Parallel theme): Yet thou in thy manifold mercies forsookest them not in the wilderness: the pillar of the cloud departed not from them by day, to lead them in the way; neither the pillar of fire by night, to shew them light, and the way wherein they should go.

Exodus 40:34 (Parallel theme): Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

1 Corinthians 14:38 (Parallel theme): But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

Deuteronomy 1:33 (Parallel theme): Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents in, in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day.

Joshua 4:23 (Parallel theme): For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: