

Numbers 14:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

Analysis

The entire congregation's response to the evil report was corporate weeping and crying through the night. This emotional outburst revealed hearts gripped by fear rather than faith. Their mourning wasn't godly repentance but self-pitying despair, lamenting God's leadership rather than trusting His promises. Unbelief manifests not in mere doubt but in vocal opposition to God's revealed will.

Historical Context

This occurred at Kadesh-barnea, on the threshold of entering the Promised Land after two years of God's faithful provision. Rather than celebrating imminent fulfillment of God's promise, they chose collective despair based on human assessment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How can you distinguish between godly sorrow and self-pitying despair in your responses to difficulties?

2. What does corporate unbelief look like in church communities today?

Interlinear Text

וְעַד הַכָּל יִתְשַׁאֲךָ
lifted up H3605 And all the congregation and cried H853
H5375 H5712 H5414 H6963 H1058
their voice wept

בְּלִילָה בְּהַרְחָוֹן
and the people that night H1931
H5971 H3915

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 1:45 (Parallel theme): And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.

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