

Numbers 14:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

Analysis

God asks Moses rhetorically, 'How long will this people provoke me?' and 'how long will it be ere they believe me?' These questions reveal divine patience wearing thin after repeated rebellions. The word 'provoke' (Hebrew 'na'ats') means to despise or spurn, indicating willful rejection. Despite 'all the signs which I have done among them'—ten plagues, Red Sea, Sinai theophany, daily manna—they refuse faith.

Historical Context

This represents approximately the tenth major rebellion since leaving Egypt (Exodus 14:11-12, 15:24, 16:2-3, 17:2-3, 32:1-6, etc.). Each instance revealed hardened unbelief despite escalating demonstrations of God's power and faithfulness.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does repeated exposure to God's truth without belief harden rather than soften hearts?
2. What signs and wonders has God shown you that should produce greater faith?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל מֹשֶׁה עַד אֵת אֵת

said

And the LORD

H413

unto Moses

H4872

H5704

provoke

H5006

בָּעֵד

עַד בָּעֵד

לֹא

How long will this people

H5971

H2088

H5704

H579

me and how long will it be ere

H3808

בְּכָל בָּעֵד

they believe

H539

H0

H3605

בְּכָל בָּעֵד

me for all the signs

H226

בְּאַת וְתִ

H834

עַש יְתִי

which I have shewed

H6213

בְּקָרְבָּן

among

H7130

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 106:24 (Faith): Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:

Psalms 78:32 (Faith): For all this they sinned still, and believed not for his wondrous works.

Psalms 78:22 (Faith): Because they believed not in God, and trusted not in his salvation:

Deuteronomy 1:32 (Faith): Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God,

Hebrews 3:8 (Parallel theme): Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

John 12:37 (Faith): But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

Numbers 14:23 (Parallel theme): Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

Numbers 14:27 (Parallel theme): How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.

Hebrews 3:16 (References Moses): For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

Hebrews 3:18 (Faith): And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

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