

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	אֲנִי	וַיִּצְרֶנּוּ
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	H5704	H579	provoke
H559	H3068		H4872			H5006
הַעַם	הַזֶּה	וְעַד	אֲנִי	לֹא		
How long will this people	H2088	H5704	H579	me and how long will it be ere		
H5971				H3808		
וַיֹּאמְרוּ	בִּי	בְּכָל	הָאֵת	אֲשֶׁר	עָשָׂה	יְהוָה
they believe	H0	H3605	me for all the signs	H834	which I have shewed	
H539			H226		H6213	
בְּקִרְבּוֹ:						
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?