

# Numbers 14:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying,

## Analysis

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Moses confronts the theological implications of destroying Israel: the nations would conclude that God 'was not able' to bring them into Canaan. This argument appeals to God's honor and the integrity of His promises. God's power must be vindicated, and His covenant faithfulness demonstrated, even when His people fail.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern peoples closely watched each nation's deity, interpreting military and political outcomes as reflections of divine power. Israel's failure would be attributed to Yahweh's impotence rather than to the people's rebellion—a devastating misrepresentation of divine justice.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How can God's honor be maintained even when His people fail?
2. What misunderstandings about God need to be corrected in your cultural context?

## Interlinear Text

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וְכִפֵּרְתָּה אֶת־כָּל־עַמּוֹת הָאָדָם כִּי־הָאָדָם יְשַׁׁבֵּת כִּי־אָדָם כִּי־אָדָם  
Now if thou shalt kill      H853      all this people      H5971      man      H376      as one      H259  
H4191

לֹאמֶר: אֲשֶׁר־גָּוֹיִם שְׁמָעוּ וְשִׁמְעָנָה אֶת־שְׁמַעְנָה  
of thee will speak      then the nations      H834      which have heard      H8085      the fame      H8088  
H559      H1471      H8085

לֹאמֶר:  
of thee will speak  
H559

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