

# 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

**Psalms 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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|                               |                         |                        |                         |            |                 |
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| וְהָמַתָּ הַ                  | אֶת                     | הָעַם                  | הַזֶּה                  | כָּאִישׁ   | אֶחָד           |
| <b>Now if thou shalt kill</b> | H853                    | <b>all this people</b> | H2088                   | <b>man</b> | <b>as one</b>   |
| H4191                         |                         | H5971                  |                         | H376       | H259            |
| לְאֶמְרָ:                     | הַגּוֹיִם               | אֲשֶׁר                 | שָׁמְעוּ                | אֶת        | שִׁמְעֶךָ       |
| <b>of thee will speak</b>     | <b>then the nations</b> | H834                   | <b>which have heard</b> | H853       | <b>the fame</b> |
| H559                          | H1471                   |                        | H8085                   |            | H8088           |
| לְאֶמְרָ:                     |                         |                        |                         |            |                 |
| <b>of thee will speak</b>     |                         |                        |                         |            |                 |
| H559                          |                         |                        |                         |            |                 |