

# Numbers 14:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness.

## Analysis

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Moses' intercession imagines the nations' false conclusion that God 'slew them in the wilderness' out of inability to fulfill His promise. This hypothetical speech highlights how God's judgments can be misinterpreted when observers lack understanding of covenant relationship and the necessity of divine holiness.

## Historical Context

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The surrounding nations knew of Israel's Exodus and wilderness journey (as Rahab later testified, Joshua 2:9-10). Their interpretation of events would shape their understanding of Yahweh's power and character, making Israel's experience a testimony—either to God's faithfulness or (falsely) to His weakness.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

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