

Numbers 14:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Analysis

The ultimate rebellion: 'Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.' This proposal rejected Moses' God-appointed leadership and repudiated God's deliverance altogether. Returning to Egypt meant returning to slavery, showing how sin deceives into believing bondage is preferable to trusting God. This echoes Israel's later desire for a king like the nations (1 Samuel 8)—rejecting God's leadership for human alternatives.

Historical Context

Egypt represented slavery, oppression, and idolatry. Their romanticized memory forgot Pharaoh's brutality and the death of Hebrew children. This proposal essentially renounced their identity as God's redeemed people.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'Egypts' in your past does Satan tempt you to return to when faith is tested?
2. How does rejecting God's appointed leaders reflect deeper rebellion against God Himself?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	וְאַחֲרֵי	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	אֶל	וְנִתְعַתֶּה	רַאשׁ	וְבָהּ
And they said		one	H413	to another	H251	Let us make	H5414	a captain
		H376					H7218	
								H7725

מִצְרַיִם:
into Egypt
H4714

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:39 (References Egypt): To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

Deuteronomy 17:16 (References Egypt): But he shall not multiply horses to himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt, to the end that he should multiply horses: forasmuch as the LORD hath said unto you, Ye shall henceforth return no more that way.

Luke 17:32 (Parallel theme): Remember Lot's wife.

Hebrews 11:15 (Parallel theme): And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

Deuteronomy 28:68 (References Egypt): And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.

