

# Numbers 32:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed.

## Analysis

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**And the LORD'S anger was kindled against Israel, and he made them wander in the wilderness forty years, until all the generation, that had done evil in the sight of the LORD, was consumed**—God's judgment matched the spies' forty-day reconnaissance with forty years of wandering (Numbers 14:34), one year per day. The verb "wander" (nuah, נָהַ) means to waver, totter, or move aimlessly—contrasting with the purposeful march toward Canaan God had intended.

"Until all the generation...was consumed" (tamam, תָּמָם, finished/completed/exhausted) fulfilled God's oath that the rebellious adults would die in the wilderness. This demonstrates that God's patience, though vast, has limits—persistent covenant-breaking brings inevitable judgment. Yet God's purpose continued; He preserved the next generation to inherit His promises. The forty years accomplished both judgment and preparation, purging unbelief while raising up a faithful generation under Joshua's leadership.

## Historical Context

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The wilderness wandering (approximately 1445-1405 BC) saw the death of all adults aged twenty and above who had been counted in the census at Sinai

(Numbers 1), except Caleb and Joshua. During this period, Israel camped primarily at Kadesh in the wilderness of Paran/Zin. The deaths occurred gradually over four decades, with the final major die-off apparently in the 40th year. This judgment shaped Israel's national memory profoundly (Psalm 95:7-11; Hebrews 3:7-19).

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's measured judgment (forty years matching forty days) reveal both justice and restraint?
2. What does this passage teach about generational consequences of covenant unfaithfulness?
3. How does the wilderness generation's fate warn against presuming on God's patience?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּעֲנֶם בְּשֶׁבָּא לְאַף יְהֹוָה: וְאַף יְפָרֵךְ  
was kindled anger And the LORD'S against Israel and he made them wander  
H2734 H639 H3068 H3478 H5128

כָּל תִּמְמָד בְּמִדְבָּר יְמִין הַשְׁנִינָה עַד שְׁנִינָה  
in the wilderness forty years was consumed  
H4057 H705 H8141 H5704 H8552 H3605

וְרָדְפָה בְּעֵינֵי כָּבֵד עַד כְּבֵד כְּבֵד  
until all the generation that had done evil in the sight And the LORD'S  
H1755 H6213 H7451 H5869 H3068

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 10:5** (Parallel theme): But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

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