

# Numbers 32:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land.

## Analysis

**Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea** (כֹּה עָשׂוּ אֲבוֹתֵיכֶם) —Moses invokes Israel's darkest hour: the spy report that triggered forty years of wilderness wandering (Numbers 13-14). The parallel is devastating: that generation chose visible obstacles over God's promise; this generation chooses visible pasture over God's inheritance. The phrase 'your fathers' distances them from patriarchal faith (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) while connecting them to faithless rebels.

Kadesh-barnea represents the perpetual temptation to stop short of God's purposes when the cost appears too high. The spies saw giants and walled cities (Numbers 13:28); Gad and Reuben see prime cattle land. Both groups made 'reasonable' assessments that contradicted divine intention. Moses' rhetorical strategy is brilliant: by naming the sin, he forces them to see themselves in their fathers' failure.

## Historical Context

Kadesh-barnea (meaning 'holy wilderness') was the southern staging area for Canaan invasion, approximately 50 miles southwest of Beersheba. The spy mission occurred in year two of the Exodus; Moses' rebuke comes 38 years later, addressing a new generation tempted to repeat the old sin.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

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1. What 'Kadesh-barnea moments' in your spiritual journey tempted you to abandon God's promises?
2. How do you respond when leaders connect your current choices to past failures in your family or community?
3. What role does historical/spiritual memory play in avoiding repeated cycles of disobedience?

## Interlinear Text

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כֹּה	עָשָׂו	אֲבֹתֵיכֶם	בְּשַׁלַּח י	אֶתְּ	שֶׁ	מִקֵּדְשׁ
H3541	<b>Thus did</b>	<b>your fathers</b>	<b>when I sent</b>	H853		H0
	H6213	H1	H7971			
	בְּרַגְלֵי עַ	לִרְאֹת	אֶת	הָאָרֶץ		
	<b>them from Kadeshbarnea</b>	<b>to see</b>	H853	<b>the land</b>		
	H6947	H7200		H776		

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