

Psalms 106:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD.

Analysis

This verse continues describing Israel's unbelief at Kadesh. 'Murmured in their tents' shows they privately complained and spread discontent among families. 'Murmured' (ragan, רָגַן) means to grumble or complain in a low, muttering way—indicating conspiracy and undermining leadership. 'Hearkened not unto the voice of the LORD' shows they refused to obey God's command to enter the land. They heard but didn't obey—a common biblical pattern where hearing without obeying constitutes disobedience (James 1:22-25). The tent grumbling shows how private unbelief metastasizes into corporate rebellion, infecting the whole community with fear and doubt.

Historical Context

Numbers 14:1-4 records that all the congregation wept, murmured against Moses and Aaron, and said it would have been better to die in Egypt or the wilderness than fall in Canaan. They even proposed choosing a new leader to return to Egypt. This wholesale rejection of God's purposes demonstrated how quickly fear and unbelief can spread through a community. Only the minority (Joshua, Caleb, Moses, Aaron, and faithful remnant) maintained faith.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does private grumbling contribute to corporate unbelief and rebellion?
2. What is the relationship between hearing God's word and obeying it?
3. How can church leaders address murmuring before it spreads and causes wider rebellion?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּרְגְּזוּ	בְּאֶתְלֵיהֶם	לֹא	שָׁמְעוּ	בְּקוֹל
But murmured	in their tents	H3808	and hearkened	not unto the voice
H7279	H168		H8085	H6963

יְהוָה:
of the LORD
H3068

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 3:15 (Parallel theme): While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Numbers 14:22 (Parallel theme): Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;