

Psalms 95:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said,
It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not
known my ways:

Analysis

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation (ארבעים שנה אקוט בדור), arba'im shanah akut be-dor)—Kut means loathe, feel disgust, be grieved. **And said, It is a people that do err in their heart** (ו אמר עם תשי ללב הם), va'omar am to'ei levav hem)—Ta'ah means wander, go astray, err; levav is heart. **And they have not known my ways** (ו הם לא ידעו דרכִי), ve-hem lo-yad'u d'rakhai)—Yada means know intimately, experience relationally.

God's grief lasted forty years—the entire wilderness period. Their error wasn't intellectual but cardiac: **err in their heart**. They didn't know God's ways not because he didn't reveal them, but because they refused intimate relationship. Yada (know) implies experiential, covenantal knowing, not mere information. Numbers 14:11 records God's assessment: "How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me?"

Historical Context

The 40 years corresponded to the 40 days the spies explored Canaan—one year for each day (Numbers 14:34). During this time, the rebellious generation died off. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the younger generation entered the Promised Land. This demonstrates God's patience but also his certainty of judgment.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to know God's ways relationally rather than just intellectually?
2. How might you be wandering in heart even while maintaining outward religious observance?
3. What does God's 40-year grief teach about his patience with persistent unbelief?

Interlinear Text

וְאַם רַבָּד וּרְאַבָּע יָמִין שְׁנַת הַיּוֹם אַרְבָּע עַד יָמִין
Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and said

H705 H8141 H6962 H1755 H559

לֹא יְהִי לְבָב יִתְּעַמֵּד עַם עַמְּנָא
It is a people that do err in their heart

H5971 H8582 H3824 H1992 H1992 H3808

וְאַתָּה יְדַבֵּר וְאַתָּה יְדַבֵּר
and they have not known my ways

H3045 H1870

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 3:17 (Parallel theme): But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcases fell in the wilderness?

Acts 13:18 (Parallel theme): And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness.

Acts 7:36 (Parallel theme): He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org