

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 (אַרְבַּעִים שָׁנָה אֶקוּט בְּדוֹר, 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** (וְאָמַר עִם תַּעֲי לִבָּב הֵם, va'omar am to'ei levav hem)—Ta'ah means wander, go astray, err; levav is heart. **And they have not known my ways** (וְהֵם לֹא יָדְעוּ דְרָכָי, 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

אַרְבָּעִים	שָׁנָה	אֶקָוֶה	בְּדֹרֹתַי	וְאָמַרְתִּי
Forty	years	long was I grieved	with this generation	and said
H705	H8141	H6962	H1755	H559
עַם	תֵּעִי	לִבָּב	הֵם	לֹא
It is a people	that do err	in their heart	H1992	H1992 H3808
H5971	H8582	H3824		
וְלֹא יָדְעוּ	דְּרָכָי			
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 carcasses 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.

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