

Lessons from the Past

“If you don’t learn from your mistakes, you’re stupid.”

“If you learn from your mistakes, you’re smart.”

“If you learn from _____, you’re brilliant!” – Author Unknown

Salvation

Old Testament salvation is a picture of New Testament salvation

Baptism → Redemption, Freedom, Belonging

Communion → Substitution, Participation

Christ was there!

Vs. 4 – The rock was Christ

Vs. 9 – We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents.

Nevertheless...

With most of them God was not pleased, for they were _____ in the wilderness.

ESV: “Overthrown”

Literally: “to spread out” or “struck down” – Louw Nida

Possible: “to lay low” as if by a hurricane – Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the NT

Snares

The golden calf → Exodus 32:3-4

“So, all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf.”

Sexual immorality → Numbers 25:1-2, Numbers 31:16

“While Israel lived in Shittim, the people began to whore with the daughters of Moab. These invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods.”

31:16 “Behold, these, on Balaam’s advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the Lord in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the Lord.”

Putting God to the test → Numbers 21:4-6

“From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the **people became impatient** on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” Then the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died..”

Grumbling → Numbers 14:2, 4

And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, “Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! ... ⁴ And they said to one another, “Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

Philippians 2:14-16 “Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the universe.”

Jude 16 “These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own sinful desires; they are loud-mouthed boasters, showing favoritism to gain advantage.”

So What?

How do you deal with a warning passage like this?

You take heed

You humble yourself

You run for the escape

A key difference...

There's a person who sins, recognizes it, and repents.

Then there's a person who is allured by the sin away from Christ.

The first category is normal Christianity. 1 John 1:8-10

The second category is not a Christian at all.

What about those who look like they have fallen?

Lives are movies, not still frames

“In life, you may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated.” – Maya Angelou

Questions for Personal Study

1. How do we see the Gospel prefigured in the stories from Israel's history?
2. What are the sins and temptations that drew Israel away from Christ?
3. Is there any lesson that God is calling you to learn from someone else's mistake?
4. How does the warning of this passage apply to you?