

In the Wilderness Series: How to Die in the Desert

Three Easy Steps:

1. Forget God's Promises for the Future
2. Forget His Faithfulness in the Past
3. Forget His Resources in the Present

Step One: Forget God's Promises for the Future

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

Genesis 13:1, 14 – 18

1 So Abram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the Negeb.

14 The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward,

15 for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever.

16 I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted.

17 Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."

18 So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.

Step Two: Forget His Faithfulness in the Past

Genesis 15:18 - 21

18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,

20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,

21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

Deuteronomy 7:22 The LORD your God will clear away these nations before you little by little. You may not make an end of them at once, lest the wild beasts grow too numerous for you.

Step Three: Forget His Resources in the Present

Numbers 13: 22a They went up into the Negeb and came to Hebron. Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmaj, the descendants of Anak, were there

Joshua 15:14 And Caleb drove out from there the three sons of Anak, Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmaj, the descendants of Anak.

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Chapter 14 Breaks into Five Dramatic Scenes:

- **Scene 1 (v1 – 5)** - A crowd scene
- **Scene 2 (v6 - 9)** - Joshua and Caleb appeal to the mob
- **Scene 3 (v10 – 12)** - God himself appears
- **Scene 4 (v13 – 38)** - Moses intercedes for the people
- **Scene 5 (v39 – 45)** - Emblematic of the legacy of that generation

How Did Moses Pray Boldly Like This?

1. He was jealous for the name of God (v13 – 16)
 - a. Not for his own legacy – he turned it down.
 - b. He was concerned for God's name, reputation, and glory.
2. He was mindful of the character of God (v17 - 19)
 - a. He knew that God would never act contrary to His nature.
 - b. Moses expected God to be consistent:
 - i. What He spoke in the past, He would declare again in the present and the future
 - ii. What He had done in the past, He would do again in the present and the future

The Poetic Judgments on that Generation

- **25** Now, since the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valleys, turn tomorrow and set out for the wilderness by the way to the Red Sea.
 - Remember how you so badly wanted to return to Egypt?
 - You're going to be able to be just near it - You'll see it, but not enter.
- **29** your dead bodies shall fall in this wilderness, and of all your number, listed in the census from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against me
 - A sad call back to the numbering of **chapters 1 and 2**
 - All your strength by tribe and fighting men won't conquer anything but will fall in the wilderness.
- **31** But your little ones, who you said would become a prey, I will bring in, and they shall know the land that you have rejected.
 - Ironically, the ones you said would be prey will be the victors - and their generation will take the land.
- **21 - 23a** But truly, as I live, and as all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD, none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, shall see the land
 - These judgments are all upon the basis that this purpose will be accomplished, but you have seen my glory and rejected it.
 - Therefore, rejecting you is how my purpose will still come to pass - regardless of you and despite you, "all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD."

Am I like Joshua and Caleb, or Am I like the Majority?

2nd Corinthians 1:20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.