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disobedience.” In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul broadens the analogy to include the entire period of the wilderness wanderings as a lesson in how not to follow God. “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

The challenge to us is clear: make it through the wilderness. We must not follow the example of those who failed because of disobedience, lack of faith in God, lack of courage, and deficiencies in moral character. Had the people been obedient and fully trusting in God, as Joshua and Caleb were, the story would have been different. They would have spent less than a year in the wilderness. They would have entered and conquered Canaan. They would have established a kingdom with God as their king. They would have rested—and they would have been better examples for us today.

It’s easy for us to assume that we would have done better. After all, they were able to hear God’s voice on the mountain, see His power in the plagues, and witness His presence in the form of a cloud or fire. The Holy Spirit anticipates this reaction and had Paul pen these words: “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12). How are you doing with the challenge laid before you?

The Bible clearly teaches that we are just pilgrims passing through (Hebrews 11:13; 1 Peter 2:11). Will your path be a direct one, leading to the gates of rest that lie beyond this life (Matthew 7:14)? Or will you be denied entrance to the place of rest because of disbelief and lack of conviction? Let us rise to the challenge set before us. Let us labor together and be diligent to enter into the rest that has been prepared for us. Do not be forever lost in the wilderness of sin.

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Just Make It Through the Wilderness



It would be an understatement to say that the Bible is beautifully written. A more accurate statement is that godly men, moved by inspiration, penned the very words that God intended them to write (2 Peter 1:20–21). Those words contain a sober and challenging warning concerning our time on this earth.

“There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4:9–11). The writer of Hebrews uses the example of the Israelite nation’s failure to conquer Canaan because they thought it would be difficult. Thus, the writer refers to their “example of

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