

Bereans Bible Institute
Module XII – Faithful Shepherds
Lesson 5. Living under the Pillar of Cloud & Fire

- I. The people of faith who “witness” to us, lived with blinders on:
 - A. living for the future not the present, reaching for the Promise as yet unseen
 - B. ignoring the difficult surrounding circumstances (Heb. 12:1-2)
 - C. obeying God’s commands even when they do not seem rational
 - D. separating from the world and its allurements, even your own kin and nation
 - E. embracing your God-appointed role with humble submission (like Sarah)
 - F. THIS is the “difficult path” that leads to life.
- II. The Old Testament Provides hundreds of examples to follow:
 - A. 2 Tim. 3:1-9 contrasts Christianity in the last days, but...
 - B. 2 Tim. 3:10-17 provides the remedy – examples & counter examples
- III. The Wilderness Wandering specifically said to set the example for us.
 - A. Examples of failure:
 1. **1 Cor. 10:1-4** (LGV) *I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all came through the sea, 2 and were all immersed into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they were drinking out from the spiritual Rock accompanying them, and the Rock was the Anointed.*
 - a. The Son of God brought Israel out of Egypt
 1. crossing the Red sea = baptism (cut off from Egypt)
 2. eating manna & drinking from the Rock = communion
 2. **vs. 5** *“But God was displeased with most of them, for they were cast down in the wilderness.”*
 - a. MOST of them forfeited the inheritance as will most Christians in the last days (Matt. 24:8-15).
 1. v. 10 many “offended” and then betray fellow believers
 2. v. 11 many will follow false prophets & teachers (internet)
 3. v. 12 many will embrace sin,
 3. **vs. 6** *“But these things became shadows of us, so that we would not be lusters of evil things as they lusted.”*
 - a. Exodus – Deuteronomy provides the patterns for us
 1. Lusting after evil things was their downfall (wealth & possessions, lifestyle & image, the praise of men, indulging the flesh via sexual stimulation, inappropriate entertainment)
 4. **vs. 7-8** *“Neither become idolaters like some of them, as it has been written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and arose to play.” 8 Neither should we fornicate, like some of them fornicated, and twenty-three-thousand fell in one day.”*

a. Idolatry & fornication go hand in hand

5. **Vs. 9** *“Neither should we test the Anointed, according as some of them tested, and were destroyed by serpents.”*

a. “tempt Christ” (Num. 21:4-9 & John 3:14-15)

1. impugning the motives and slandering leaders who are trying to be faithful (James 3:1-18).

2. They constructed a false “narrative” against Moses and convinced others to rebel.

3. God upheld Moses and destroyed those who rebelled

a. Yet He provided a remedy for those bitten by serpents

b. James also shows the remedy for us (James 4:1-12)

6. **Vss. 10-12** *“Neither complain, as some of them complained and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 But all these things were happening to them [as] illustrations, and it was written for our warning unto whom came the endings of the ages. 12*

Consequently, the one seeming to have stood firm, beware so he may not fall.

a. “Complaining” results from taking our eyes off of the goal and focusing on the present circumstances. God’s temporary provision was not good enough, but they craved the things of Egypt (the world).

7. **Heb. 3:5 – 4:11** *“And Moses was indeed faithful in all His household as a servant, as a witness of what would be spoken later. 6 But the Anointed one [was faithful] as a Son over His own house, of whose house we are if we clutch the confidence and rejoicing of the confirmed hope unto the consummation, 7 according to which the holy Breath says: “This day, if you hear His voice, 8 you should not harden your hearts as in the provocation, as in the day of testing in the wilderness 9 where your fathers tried me, they tested Me and saw My works. 10 Forty years I was disgusted with that generation. And I said, ‘They are always straying in their heart and they do not know my ways,’ 11 as I swore in My anger whether they shall enter into My Rest.” [Psalm 95:7-11]*

12 Beware brothers, if at such time a wicked heart of unbelief shall be found in any of you, in apostatizing from the living God. 13 But encourage one another each day until that [day] which is called ‘This day,’ so that none from among you may be hardened by the seduction of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of the Anointed if we should clutch the original confirmed foundation unto the consummation, 15 when it is to be proclaimed: “This day, if you hear His voice, you should not harden your hearts as in the provocation.” 16 For some having heard, provoked [God], but not all who came out of Egypt by Moses. 17 Yet with whom was He disgusted forty years? Was it not the ones sinning, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear would not enter His rest except those who were unconvinced? 19 And we see that they were unable to enter because of disbelief.

Chapter 4 *We should fear then, if at such time any of you might appear to have fallen short of the remaining promise to enter into His Rest. 2 For we also have been told the good message as they were (but the message heard [by them] had no benefit, not having been mixed with faith in the hearers). 3 For we – the ones who believed – are entering the*

Rest, (just as He said: "As I swore in My anger, whether they shall come into My Rest,") although the labors came about because of the casting down of the world. 4 For He has declared somewhere concerning the seventh [day] thus: "And God ceased in the seventh day from all His works," 5 and thus again: "whether they shall come into My Rest.", 6 Since then it remains for some to enter into it, and those to whom it was previously announced did not enter because of obstinance, He specifies another set day – "This day." 7 After such a long time He says in [the Psalm of] David according as was previously proclaimed, "This day if you hear His voice, you should not harden your hearts." 8 For if Joshua [had provided] them the Rest, He would not have been speaking of another day after those. 9 Consequently, the Sabbath-observance awaits the people of God. 10 For the one entering into His Rest, he has also ceased from his own labors just as God did from His. 11 Therefore, we should be diligent to enter into that Rest so that none fall into the same pattern of obstinance.

- a. The "disobedience" of "the rebellion in the wilderness" was in their impugning God by impugning Moses' motives and slandering him.
- b. Their rebellion was driven by lust for evil things, not trusting God to fight their battles as He promised, and despising His simple provision. So they decided to take matters into their own hands.
- c. Difficult times and events will TEST us to PROVE our faith.

B. Positive lessons from under the Pillar of Cloud and Fire:

1. The presence of God was among them, bringing both:
 - a. safety, guidance, and provision
 - b. judgement and death
2. Total reliance on God with **no safety net**
 - a. constructing your own safety net removes God's provision and blessings because it is relying on your own strength instead of God, whatever is not of faith is sin (one foot in Egypt).
3. Patiently waiting on God's timing
 - a. they could move only when the pillar of cloud moved
 - b. moving apart from God moves out from under His protection and provision.
4. To successfully navigate the end times, both feet must be out of Egypt, and you must become completely dependent on God. Otherwise, you will apostasize from the faith.