



TWO MEN HAD A VISION OF GOD!

The forty-first encampment of the children of Israel was near the river Jordan, at the very entrance to the promised land of Canaan. It is here that the Lord gave the final instructions to the children of Israel who had been traveling for over forty long years. They had traveled through a howling place, under the most relentless and scorching sun. They had moved from place to place, under the most adverse conditions; they had suffered greatly and tolerated many hardships as a people. But despite this the whole generation perished and could not come into their inheritance. The underlying reason for this failure was that they lacked a sense of vision of the things that lay ahead. They paid no heed to the sayings of Joshua and Caleb after they had returned from a short visit to the land of Canaan ' If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it to us; a land which floweth with milk and honey'.

The bulk of the old generation of Israelites could not catch a vision of what God offered to them. So they stoned Joshua and Caleb and provoked the Lord!!

The old generation of Israelites had become a weary lot. Traveling through an arid, desolate, trackless wilderness, they had become wearisome; a vexatious spirit consumed them; they had become tired, lethargic and exhausted. It is so even in our lives. There are inevitably some empty, unrewarding and unfruitful seasons in our lives; there are winters of hunger and

Ten men failed to see God;

they saw giants so tall

But two men looked upon God;

and saw grasshopper's small

Ten men failed to see God

and said, " we're certain to fall

But two men looked unto God

*and cried " with God we will
prevail"*

Ten men failed to see God

*and said "He cannot give it to
us"*

But two men had a vision of God

and said " He will give it to us".

Ten men failed to see God

and the strength of His hand

But two men had a vision of God

and said

" He will give us this land".

-J S Baker

thirst; and there are summers of dismay, dejection and loneliness; there are periods of sterility and waste and there are times of restlessness and anxiety. The children of Israel had not only a few seasons of dryness but they had suffered through forty years of aimless wandering. Many complained and murmured and wished they could return to Egypt! They wanted to turn back having 'put their hand to the plough'.

Why did the children of Israel perish in the wilderness?

What was the real reason for perishing? The Bible says that they were 'overthrown in the wilderness' because of their 'evil heart of unbelief' (Hebrew 3:12,19). They failed to believe the promises of God. They refused to believe that God could or would take them to 'a land flowing with milk and honey'. One of the main causes of their unbelief was that they lacked a vision in their lives. They lacked a sense of purpose. As it says in the poem above, only two men had a vision of God; the rest failed to see God in their situation. And 'where there is no vision the people perish.

The Israelites could not really appreciate what God had set before them in their lives. They were so caught up with their day-to-day problems in the wilderness that they could not see beyond the horizon of their present existence. The result was that they became a weary people and gave themselves to murmuring and complaining. They were not concerned with the vision that the Lord was showing them but they were unduly concerned with eating, drinking and making merry. Moses placed the vision of God before them day after day but they merely said 'what is the use of a land that is far beyond that flows with milk and honey, when we cannot even have water to drink now?' Many times we go along with those who say 'seeing is believing'. We apply human reasoning to our situations

and fail to see the hand of God in our lives.

This devotion is sent to you with a prayer and hope that it will secure something of eternal value. You could get in touch with the author at joythomas@oilnwine.org or if you want UNSUBSCRIBE webmaster@oilnwine.org

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