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1 Corinthians 10:5-9

**Learn From Those Under Moses
Dangers of Immorality and Idolatry**

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December 31, 2023

**Miraculous Provision Did Not
Insure Fidelity to Yahweh**

1 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

Nevertheless, **with most of them God was not pleased**, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

- Context: Under the cloud, through the sea, spiritual food & water from the Rock
- The Greek word translated 'overthrown' is found in Numbers 14:16 LXX
- All saw God's blessings, most were judged

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**From Their Example:
Do Not Lust for Evil**

1 Corinthians 10:6 (NASB)

Now these things happened as **examples for us**, so that we would **not crave evil things as they also craved**.

- The word translated 'craved' is 'lusted'
- Those who died due to their lust serve as an example to us if we do the same
- "Crave" *epithumeo* is found twice in Exodus 20:17 (10th commandment)

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Idol Worship With No Restraint

1 Corinthians 10:7 (ESV)

Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."

- Idolatry is prominent in Corinth
- Paul cites Exodus 32:6; context: golden calf
- The Israelites engaged in eating, drinking, revelry, and cultic dancing before the idol
- Thus lack of self-control is still an issue

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Immorality As Part of Idolatry

1 Corinthians 10:8 (ESV)

We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day

- 'Immorality' here is *porneuo* (verb used to describe fornication in the context of poly-theistic cults (see Rev. 17:2; 18:3, 9))
- Paul references the incident in Numbers 25:1-9 (pagan religion and immorality)

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Do Not Tempt God

1 Corinthians 10:9 (ESV)

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

- To put Yahweh to the test is to put Christ to the test (Exodus 17:2; Num. 21:5, 6)
- The Corinthians were putting Christ to the test by wanting to dine in the idol's temple
- Psalm 78:18 speaks of Israelites testing God by demanding food they craved

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Implications and Applications

- Every believer in Christ faces the same dangers as the Israelites did
- To crave what God delivered us from is to put ourselves in grave danger
- The only escape from death is to believe in the Lord and trust His provision

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Jude Refers to Danger of Sin

Jude 4a, c, 5 (NASB)

For certain persons have crept in unnoticed...ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt, subsequently destroyed those who did not believe.

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They Despised God's Gift

Numbers 11:4-6 (NASB)

The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, "Who will give us meat to eat? "We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic, but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna."

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Do Not Test God

Numbers 21:5, 6 (NASB)

The people spoke against God and 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 miserable food." The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

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The People Now Seek Help

Numbers 21:7b, 8 (NASB)

...intercede with the LORD, that He may remove the serpents from us." And Moses interceded for the people. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live."

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Believe in the Son

John 3:14-16 (ESV)

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

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