



“How often did they provoke Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert! Yes, they turned back and tested God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.” Psalm 78:40 – 41

A desert may be defined as a dry, barren region or wilderness, largely treeless and sandy. Yet the wilderness of soul is far dryer than any natural desert. The sad fact of such human deserts is that the lack of spiritual water is self-imposed. Wrong choices that isolate us from the goodness of God produce drought of heart and soul. Such are the hearts of the rebel, the stubborn, the prideful, or the fool. Let’s listen, if only briefly, to the issues of the heart that is uncovered in this psalm of those who lived and died in the desert wilderness of Sinai, all the while in the sight of the manifest glory and power of Yahweh!

“A generation that set not their hearts aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.” “...being armed ...they turned back in the day of battle. “*They* kept not the covenant... *they* refused to walk in His law. ...*they* Forgot His works and His wonders. ...they sinned yet more against Him by provoking the Most High in the wilderness... They tested God in their hearts by asking *for* food according to their *lustful* desire. Yes, they spoke against God.” (Psalm 78:8-11, 18-19).

As these who died in the desert experienced the Lord’s judgment rather than His abundance – which was ever present with them – so we, too, must watch our words and guard what our tongues are speaking. (Romans 3:4; Matthew 12:34-37). While Jesus walked the earth, He experienced the limiting power of the people’s unbelief. (Mark 6:5-6). May we determine now to never test the Lord or limit Him in either our words or by the spirit of unbelief.

“Lord, I now reaffirm my trust in You and in Your Word. In Jesus’ name, I will never turn back from the life of faith nor will I allow unbelief to limit Your work in my life. So be it!”

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