

Deuteronomy 1:34 — “And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying,”

Deuteronomy 1:35 — “Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers,”

Deuteronomy 1:36 — “Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 1:37 — “Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither.”

Deuteronomy 1:38 — “But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.”

Deuteronomy 1:39 — “Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.”

Deuteronomy 1:40 — “But as for you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.”

Deuteronomy 1:41 — “Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the LORD, we will go up and fight, according to all that the LORD our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill.”

Deuteronomy 1:42 — “And the LORD said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies.”

Deuteronomy 1:43 — “So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill.”

Deuteronomy 1:44 — “And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah.”

Deuteronomy 1:45 — “And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.”

Deuteronomy 1:46 — “So ye abode in Kadesh many days, according unto the days that ye abode there.”

INTRODUCTION

- Deuteronomy 1:34–46 takes us to the end of Israel’s failure at Kadesh-barnea.
 - They had reached the edge of Canaan.
 - They heard that it was a good land.
 - They refused to go in because they did not believe the LORD.
- Deuteronomy is **Book 5 of 66**.
 - Deuteronomy 1 is the first of 34 chapters.
 - It is **chapter 154 of 1,189** in the Bible.
- Moses is speaking near the end of the wilderness years.
 - He is speaking to the generation that is about to enter the land their fathers refused.
- Earlier in the chapter God had said, “**goup and possess it.**”
 - Israel would not go.
 - By verse 34 the LORD has heard their words of unbelief and pronounces judgment.
 - Moses puts that failure before the next generation so they will hear God where their fathers would not.
- The judgment now gives that rebellious generation a new direction:

- o **“Turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness.”**

I. TURN YOU, AND TAKE YOUR JOURNEY INTO THE WILDERNESS — VERSES 34-40

Deuteronomy 1:34–35 — “And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying, Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers,”

- God heard what they had been saying in their tents.
- He **“was wroth, and sware.”**
 - o This is a settled judgment upon that generation.
- Verse 35 gives the contrast:
 - o **“this evil generation”**
 - o **“that good land”**
- The land had not failed them.
- God had not failed them.
- **They had refused to believe Him.**

Hebrews 3:19 — “So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

- Their fear of the enemy grew out of unbelief toward the word of God.

Deuteronomy 1:36 — “Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD.”

- Caleb is the exception because he **“wholly followed the LORD.”**
- The multitude measured the land by the enemies they saw.
- Caleb followed what God had said.

Deuteronomy 1:37–38 — “Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying, Thou also shalt not go in thither. But Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.”

- Moses reminds them that he also would not enter.
 - o Scripture later connects Moses’ exclusion with his own failure at Meribah.
- Joshua would enter and lead Israel.
- One generation had failed.
- **God’s promise was still moving forward.**

Deuteronomy 1:39–40 — “Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it. But as for you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.”

- The children Israel feared would become prey would possess the land.
- God distinguished them from the adults responsible for this rebellion.
- Then He tells those adults:
 - o **“Turn you.”**
- Earlier obedience meant **going up**.
- Now obedience meant **turning back**.
- The opportunity they refused was no longer theirs to take whenever they pleased.

[WARNING] **Do not wait for consequences to teach you what God has already said.**

II. YE WOULD NOT HEAR, BUT REBELLED AND WENT PRESUMPTUOUSLY UP — VERSES 41-43

Deuteronomy 1:41 — “Then ye answered and said unto me, We have sinned against the LORD, we will go up and fight, according to all that the LORD our God commanded us. And when ye had girded on every man his weapons of war, ye were ready to go up into the hill.”

- Now they admit:
 - **“We have sinned.”**
- Now they put on their weapons.
- Now they are ready to go.
- But **“go up” was yesterday’s command.**
- God had just told them to turn toward the wilderness.
- Their confession was correct.
- The remedy they chose was another act of self-will.

[STRONG] **You cannot correct yesterday’s rebellion by choosing today’s rebellion.**

Deuteronomy 1:42 — “And the LORD said unto me, Say unto them, Go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest ye be smitten before your enemies.”

- The command is plain:
 - **“Go not up.”**
 - **“Neither fight.”**
- Earlier Moses had told them the LORD would go before them and fight for them.
- Now God says:
 - **“I am not among you.”**
- Their courage had changed.
- **God’s word was still the standard.**

[STRONG] **Faith believes God when He promises victory, and faith believes God when He warns of defeat.**

Deuteronomy 1:43 — “So I spake unto you; and ye would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD, and went presumptuously up into the hill.”

- **“Yewould not hear”** identifies the continuing problem.
- Before judgment:
 - They would not go when God said go.
- After judgment:
 - They would not stop when God said stop.
- Their boldness was **presumption** because they were acting against the command of the LORD.

Numbers 14:44 — “But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.”

- The army went up.
- The ark stayed.
- Moses stayed.
- They wanted the victory God had once promised while refusing the word He had just spoken.

[STRONG] **Religious words, weapons, courage, and activity cannot turn rebellion into obedience.**

III. THE LORD WOULD NOT HEARKEN TO YOUR VOICE — VERSES 44-46

Deuteronomy 1:44 — “And the Amorites, which dwelt in that mountain, came out against you, and chased you, as bees do, and destroyed you in Seir, even unto Hormah.”

- God had warned that they would be smitten before their enemies.
- The Amorites came out and chased them **“as bees do.”**
- The men who had suddenly become confident were driven from the mountain.
- Their defeat proved the warning they had refused to believe.

Deuteronomy 1:45–46 — “And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you. So ye abode in Kadesh many days, according unto the days that ye abode there.”

- Follow the hearing pattern through the chapter:
 - Verse 34 — **the LORD heard their words.**
 - Verse 43 — **they would not hear Him.**
 - Verse 45 — **the LORD would not hearken to their voice.**
- Their weeping did not reverse His sentence concerning entrance into Canaan.
- Verse 46 leaves them at Kadesh:
 - **“many days.”**
- The opportunity was gone.
- The consequence remained.
- Chapter 2 opens with Israel finally taking the wilderness road God had commanded.

[ENCOURAGE] **After failure, the right course is still to submit to what God says now.**

CONCLUSION

- Israel was afraid when God told them to go.
- Israel was bold when God told them to stop.
- Both failures came from the same place:
 - **They would not hear the LORD.**

[SLOW] Faith takes God at His word.

- Believe Him when His word gives a promise.
- Believe Him when His word gives a warning.
- Let Scripture decide the course instead of asking God to bless a course you have already chosen.
- When disobedience brings consequences:
 - Do not spend your strength trying to force yesterday's opportunity back into existence.
 - Hear what God says now.
 - Obey from where you are now.
- God's promise to Israel continued even though that generation lost its place in the conquest.

[PAUSE]

- At Kadesh they learned something too late:
 - The same hill God once commanded them to climb became the hill He commanded them to leave alone.

[STRONG]

- When God said **go**, they refused.
- When God said **stop**, they went.

[REPEAT] **It was too late to go up.**