

Be Careful What You Want

"And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."
Psalm 106:15

When Israel failed the test through which God put her in the wilderness, by refusing to face the giants in Canaan, He forced the Hebrews to wander forty years in the wilderness. During these forty years, those over 20 died and God readied the next generation for the conquest of Canaan.

The people had an easy life during those forty years of wandering: God provided food, water, and protection from marauders and hostile nations, and the people's clothes and shoes never wore out. He met all their needs. Why go into the Promised Land when we can live like this?

In every generation, when God's people become weary in well-doing, the experience of the forty years of wandering looks attractive. They are tempted to want retirement and to live off of God's provision – passive and disengaged from the rest of the world. God may allow it, but this doesn't mean He approves.

God considered the forty years of "retirement" for the older generation His judgment upon them. The younger generation could not linger under the protection of God's pillar of fire; they had to fight the giants – the same tribe of giants their parents refused to fight.

God wants you actively involved in His world. This is the environment in which He tests you and prepares you for an eternity with Him. It may be, with advanced age you are forced into retirement, but resist the urge to exit the battle and enjoy the good life. That is not part of the plan of God.