

THE SIN OF PRESUMPTION Numbers 14:40-45; 15:30  
Psalms 19:13, 14

INTRODUCTION: It has been said, "Wise men presume nothing, but hope for the best; presumption is hope out of her wits."

PRESUME - PRESUMPTION: To take upon oneself without warrant. To go beyond what is right or proper. Over stepping due bounds. Taking liberties.

Wilful, Intentional, Deliberate, Without authority  
DAVID'S PRAYER: "Keep back thy servant also from presumption sins; let them not have dominion over me." The result:

1. Then shall I be upright...
2. And I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Psalms 19:13

In this portion of scripture we have a solemn example of a people trying to do work for the Lord against his will and without his presence.

The Lord through Moses said:

1. "Go not up, for the Lord is not among you." V-44
2. "But they presumed to go up." Verse 44.

WHO THESE PEOPLE WERE

1. They were pilgrims from Egypt who had been saved by the power of God.
2. They had time and again witnessed the great power of God in leading them.
3. They were murmurers who had refused to accept the report of the two faithful spies, and who desired to make themselves a captain and return to Egypt. Num. 14:4

WHAT THEY DID

1. When they heard that the Lord had sentenced *them* to forty years of wilderness wanderings they said:
  1. "Lo, we be here, and we will go up: for we have sinned." 14:40
2. What was their duty yesterday becomes disobedience today.

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IN THEIR SELF-CONFIDENT EFFORT THEY ONLY GAINED FOR THEMSELVES THE FOLLOWING:

1. DISAPPOINTMENT.

1. They did not reach the place the Lord had promised them.
2. They had built their hopes on a foundation of sand. Matt. 7:24-29.

2. DEFEAT.

1. The enemy overcame them. "The Amalekites and the Canaanites...smote them and discomfitted them. Num. 14:45. "They presumed to go up unto the hill top." Num. 14:44
1. Fresh from one transgression, and with its penalty already pronounced, they yet rush headlong into another.

3. PROCRASTIAN

1. Beware of depending on a late repentance.
  1. Those Israelites found that the eleventh hour for them was too late. Matt. 20:1-16
  2. Their last effort was a fatal one: many of them lost their lives.
  3. For this sin there was no sacrifice appointed. Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-29

4. DEATH

1. Many were smitten: destroyed by the Amalekites and the Canaanites who swooped down on them from the hills.
2. "For the wages of sin (SELF TRUST) was death to all fruitfulness for God in that day as well as for Christ in this day. Rom 6:23.

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1. DEATH

## 3. RECESSION

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