

Navigating Between Eras 2

I. Tools For Navigational Success – Part 2

A. We are navigating between two Eras and we have seen that the Lord has given clear instruction and tools for navigational success during The Sacred Season in which we are at present

1. As we navigate we see that certain issues arise that must be dealt with in order to not only start, but to Finish!

2. Taken from 1 Corinthians 10.1-11 we have already studied the following issues and tools for overcoming those issues

a. Tool Number 1: Don't Be Ignorant ('know your history')

(1) Issue – Starting but not finishing

b. Tool Number 2: Don't Crave Evil Things ('live on God's word')

(1) Issue – Adversity in the journey

c. Tool Number 3: Don't Be Idolaters ('true worship')

(1) Issue – Delay in the journey

d. Tool Number 4: Don't Act Immorally ('sexual purity')

(1) Issue – Porous Culture

B. Tool 5: **Do not try the Lord** (vs. 9)

1. **1 Corinthians 10.9**: "Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents..."

a. 'try' – 'To put to thoroughly put to the test', 'to thoroughly scrutinize as if on trial'

b. The word in the Greek translated as 'lord' is not 'lord', but Christ, therefore the admonition is 'do not try the Christ'

(1) Christ means 'anointed one' and points to God and the one that He has sent to bring and/or lead us to our deliverance and salvation

(2) The same word in the Hebrew is 'messiach' and speaks of the one or people whom the Lord has anointed for His purpose

(a) **Psalm 105.15**: "Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm."

(b) **1 Samuel 26.11**: "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed ; but now please take the spear that is at his head and the jug of water, and let us go."

2. Key Issue: *Impatience on the journey*

- a. The historical event that is the source of this tool is taken from the example of the children of Israel recorded in **Numbers 21.4-9**
- b. **Verse 4:** “Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey”

(1) Moses, at the direction of the Lord took the Children of Israel on a route *around* the land of Edom

(2) As Moses began to lead the people around Edom we can hear the people, “Moses, why can’t we just go straight through...?”, “Moses, do you know what you are doing?”, or “Moses, I think I know a quicker way...”

- c. **Verse 5:** “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.”

(1) Notice that the Scripture says that they spoke against God and Moses, but the words were directed at Moses

(2) Because of the seemingly ‘long & wrong’ direction Moses took them upon, they began to cross-examine Moses as if he was on trial

(3) It is important to note that God considered this as putting Himself on trial and examining Him

(4) Moses has no options here...he must obey the Lord and not be moved by the impatience and ‘words’ of the people he is leading

(5) They did have food (manna) and they did have water (the Rock)—it just wasn’t what they missed from Egypt

(6) Impatience makes one blind and unthankful for what God has given you on your journey to salvation

- d. **Verse 6:** “The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.”

(1) God took very personally their trying of Moses and sent judgment upon them in the form of ‘fiery serpents’

(2) The word ‘fiery’ means ‘burning’ and points to the copper color of the snakes and the fact that they were poisonous

(3) The snakes bit the people and they died—sent from God!

e. **Verse 7:** “So the people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and you; intercede with the Lord, that He may remove the serpents from us.’ And Moses interceded for the people”

- (1) The people finally realized the connection between putting cross-examining Moses and trying the Lord
- (2) They came to Moses to repent—not to the Lord!
- (3) Now Moses, the one whom they were speaking against, is the one asked to intercede on their behalf
- (4) Moses goes to the Lord for the people and the Lord gives him the cure for the snake bites

f. **Verse 8:** “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a fiery serpent, and set it on the standard; and it shall come about that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live”

- (1) Moses was commanded to make an image of the snake that was killing them and place it on a pole
- (2) The snake on a pole signifies the overcoming of that snake by Moses and the importance of trusting God and His anointed
- (3) Everyone who desired to be saved had to ‘look at’ the snake that was lifted up on the pole by Moses
- (4) Accurate sight brings life!

g. **Verse 9:** “And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.”

- (1) Bronze speaks of judgment and as people who were bitten looked at the bronze serpent they were judged and given life
- (2) Looking at the bronze serpent represented a change of heart and attitude towards the Lord and His anointed and brought life to those who were dying of the snake bites
- (3) It is important to note that only the living could ‘look’, and therefore, those who had already died remained dead

3. Through this historical event, Paul gives us another tool for Navigating Between Eras successfully, which means by not being ‘laid low’ in the wilderness, the place of transition

- a. The goal is to navigate fully into the new successfully
- b. Let us not ‘try the Christ’, but trust that God is leading us through those whom He has anointed, no matter the length, direction, or pace of the journey!