

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sermon by Ray Reynolds

BLAST FROM THE PAST!

Text : **I Corinthians 10:1-13**

Introduction: Sometimes the best way to understand the present, and prepare for the future, we need to revisit the past. In an effort to encourage the church of Corinth Paul reminds the church about the history of God's people. It seems that the history of the Israelites reveals a few warnings, and a few promises, that should catch our attention.

Discussion:

- I. BE ADDED (vs.1-4)
 - A. All baptized believers are members of the Lord's church.
 - B. **Acts 2:41-47** – after their baptism the Lord added them to the church.
 - C. **Acts 7:38** – Stephen spoke of the church in the wilderness
 - D. They were a congregation of the Lord's people, just like us.
 - E. They were saved, but they also rebelled, and many were lost.

- II. BE ACCEPTABLE (vs.5-6)
 - A. God punished His own people, in the OT for our example, showing us what not to do and how not to act.
 - B. In other words, let's learn from the mistakes of others.
 - C. **Numbers 14:26-35** – After listening to all the grumbling and complaining God decided to punish them for the future church to learn a valuable lesson.
 - D. This may be why Paul later refers to the OT as our tutor or schoolmaster in **Galatians 3:24-25**.

- III. BE ATTENTIVE (vs.7-10)
 - A. Paul warns us not to practice idolatry (v. 7).
Exodus 32:1-10 - Israel fell because of this grievous sin.
I Corinthians 10:14-22 – Later in this same chapter Paul warns us.
 - B. Paul warns us not to practice fornication (v.8).
Number 25:1-9 – Physically and/or spiritually breaking God's covenant.
II Corinthians 6:14-18 – We cannot have close fellowship with darkness.
 - C. Paul warns us not to be tempters of Christ (v.9).
Exodus 17:1-7 - By crying out for water they tempted the Lord.
Numbers 21:5-9 – The story of being smitten by serpents.
John 3:14-16 - The Lord Jesus was lifted up for all to look upon Him.
 - D. Paul warns us not to be murmurers (v.10)
Numbers 14:1-6 - The people were complaining but their leaders prayed.
Numbers 14:9 - They were rebellious and God wanted to punish them.
Numbers 14:18-20 – The prayers of the leaders were heard and answered.
James 5:16 – The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

- IV BE ALERT (vs.11-12)
 - A. These past events were written down because they were intended for present day audience.
 - B. **Romans 8:28-30** - Everything happens for a purpose.
 - C. **James 1:2-3** – Every trial develops patience and makes us more mature.
 - D. Perfection and completion are accomplished through the trials of life.
 - E. **I Peter 5:8-9** - We need to be on the alert for Satan's advances.
 - F. If we are not cautious he may devour us.

V BE ASSURED (v.13)

- A. God will always help us to do the right thing.
- B. **I Corinthians 10:14-15** – Later Paul says that this is a sign of intelligence.
- C. Being able to see that the temptation is tolerable is a sign of wisdom.
- D. We have got to do better about trusting in God to deliver us and believing that he has enough faith in us to let us face this trial.
- E. There are times when I fall to my knees and I say God I cannot help but be frustrated. I don't know how on earth I'm gonna face this trial! I know you have faith in me. But I don't have faith in myself. I don't know what to do! I just can't face it. I just can't do it!
- F. And then it hits me! Of course, I can't! Only He can do these things!
- G. **II Peter 3:9** - God is not slack concerning His promises.
- H. Being able to see the way of escape is His will!
- I. We have to know that He's there holding our hand during the trial and if we run away He is there waiting with open arms at the end of the trial to reach down and scoop us up!
- J. We need to have that peace of God that surpasses all understanding that Paul talks about in **Philippians 4:7**.

Conclusion: Consider the history of God's people. No matter how wicked or evil they were, God never left them alone. He believed in them. He promised to be right there with them and He stayed with them. And God is still with His people. We need to learn from the past, and prepare for the future, but live one day at a time. Are you ready to put your past behind you? Are you ready to surrender your future to God? Are you ready to have peace and hope? Remember, God will be with you always!!!