

STRENGTH IN THE STORY

God gave us the God Story to help us draw true strength from His spoken and written Word. In 1 Corinthians 10 Paul recounts how this strength in what is true is provided for any who seek it. Let's take a look at how we find strength through heart interaction with the Story!

1 Corinthians 10.1-4

“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and all ate the same spiritual food; and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and *the rock was Christ.*”

- this is really quite breathtaking/in just a few verses Paul explains the connection between Jews, Messiah, and us - what is the food they drank and how does it relate to our spiritual food (see John 6)?

10.5-6

“Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.”

- The book of Numbers is filled with insight into what it means to be consumed by grumbling and fear. If you have never taken the time to nail this down - visit the Book - you will never regret it!

- craving is a part of being human - one of the things in which God wishes for us to be free

10.7

“Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, “THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY.”

- what do you learn about the impact of craving from this passage? Why did they crave?

10.8-11

“Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.

Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents.

Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”

-Wow! We are supposed to read this to see the result of our cravings - whatever they might be.

10.12-13

“Therefore let him who thinks he stands take care that he does not fall. No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.”

- here is the main lesson from the stories of the sons of Israel - God is with us! When we turn to God He will deliver us from our temptations - and allow us to escape their consequences. Double wow.