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Temptation

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 drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ." (ESV)

- The Exodus
  - Defining moment in Israelite history
    - Baptism → passing through the water
- Divine rescue
  - Cloud of Glory (God's presence) → present all day
  - Pillar of Fire (God's presence) → present all night
  - Food supernaturally supplied
- The "Rock"
  - Petra = πέτρα
  - Not a physical rock
    - This metaphor appears throughout Scripture
    - Foundational, anchors, steadfast
    - "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he." (Deuteronomy 32:4, ESV)
    - "For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves." (Deuteronomy 32:31, ESV)
- Talking about God, but not God's name

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1 CORINTHIANS 10:5, "Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness." (ESV)

- Paul is not just cautioning against desiring sin
  - The Israelites took for granted God's presence
  - Frequently relied on their own wisdom
    - When tired of manna, God sends quail ⟶ they stockpile
    - "However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them." (Exodus 6:20, NIV)

1 CORINTHIANS 10:7-8, "Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play. We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day." (ESV)

- "Play" = קָחָץ
  - Some scholars have suggested this to carry sexual connotation, which supports Paul's logic
- Hebrew & Greek (Septuagint) records 24,000
  - The point is the same: a lot

1 CORINTHIANS 10:11, "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come." (ESV)

- Killed by snakes ⟶ Numbers 21

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- "And the people spoke against God and against 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 worthless food. Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died." (Numbers 21:5-6, ESV)

- Killed by an angel ⟶ Exodus 12
  - "And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead." (Exodus 12:30 , ESV)
- Killed by "the destroyer" ⟶ Numbers 16
  - "And fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 men offering the incense." (Number 16:35, ESV)
- We have even more responsibility
  - These things were written down for a reason
  - Sad history comes at a cost, which makes it valuable for instruction

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (ESV)

- The Corinthians were not facing anything truly unique
- Our hope is in the presence of God never take that for granted

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Bruce W. Winter, After Paul Left Corinth, Timothy Brookins, Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy, Craig Keener, 1-2 Corinthians, N.T. Wright, The New Testament in Its World