

Ab. 3:7-4:11

SUBJECT: They That Fall  
in the Wilderness

Dg/59

GP

Heb. 3:7 - 4:11

### THEY THAT FELL IN THE WILDERNESS

The marked contrast between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> chapters, Hebrews.

The 3<sup>rd</sup>, "the cemetery chapter" of the Bible. Job's dream.  
November day: landscape drenched with sweeping rains, rotting  
leaves fallen in showers to find a grave in the damp, moldy soil.

The 4<sup>th</sup> like the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalms, the green pastures, the still

water, the deer, soft midsummer day.

Job the 7<sup>th</sup> & of the chapter of Romans.

Buts each chapter represents an experience of the  
inner Christian life. Majority of Christians live, die →  
the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Hebrews, the 7<sup>th</sup> of Romans.

#### I. The Wilderness Experience.

Israel the morning after the deliverance at the Red Sea.  
Never a nation a greater position, victorious  
Power, tyrant broken by marvellous might, God =  
Behind, Egypt left forever = Above, sheltering grottoes =  
Below, the promised land.

May a man already dream of wrongdoing, sinning...  
all within a few weeks more.

But of those 600,000 men, flushed with victory, eager,  
only 2 chosen to see the land flowing with milk and honey  
and 4000 not fit so many, dreary years had stored away.  
The rest - carcasses fell in the wilderness. Taid in the desert  
waste - the sand a weary sheet, the solitude thus  
marvelous. How dreary the incessant forebodings.  
The perpetual snow, oriental grey morning through  
the camp. What words Paul, so written  
among such scenes, is so expressively sad.

#### The morning of the desert.

(1) sand storm.  
(2) sand storm.  
at Karachi. The hot wind laden with light, powdery dust

(3) mirage  
afar, the green glades forth weary traveler - but  
dunes deceived, thist mocked.

## Emblematic of

- (1) **reverie**  
Tents constantly being struck and again, is  
much the same country. A perpetual weariness.
- (2) **an lemons**  
wandering 40 years in the wilderness, no city  
of habitation, no abiding place
- (3) **unresting longing**  
no home; always, thirty, this soul yearning  
within them.  
always, thirty, pitiful tents, mostly empty.  
surrounded by same monotonous horizon  
" the same food till the soul loathes it  
the way of Solomon: "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity"

## II. The Cause of the Wilderness Experience.

Three conditions in which unbelief thrives in us as in the children of Israel.

1. A murmuring, complaining spirit

Heb. 3:8 "the provocation"

Ex. 10:6: 24-26.

(1) Exodus 16. Within a few days, the Exodus. No bread.  
Kneading troughs but no flour.

(2) Exodus 17. No water. The scorching stones, not  
a drop of vegetable trouble in the living sea.

(3) Exodus 13. No spirit to try. Green hills  
of Palestine in sight - spirit snatched the hand -  
bitter fruits - but until the day in Egypt!

2. "Departed from the living God"

Heb. 3:12  
thought they could do better for themselves - that  
they were captains.

Jeremiah 2:13

3. Did not "hold to begin / their warfare steadfast  
~~to the end.~~ And not able to keep, delay, -

Delivered them from Pharaoh, yes, but not able

to shield them from Amalek.  
Left the Red Sea but not able to divide the Jordan.

Conveyed us across the Atlantic, but more progress  
to leave us to drown in a ditch,

### III The Appeal, & lamination.

Heb. 3: 8 "the heart - an evil heart, & unbelief."  
Unbelief a child not, or head but of the heart.  
of a creature, the intellect, then meet it with argument  
But in the heart. Then.  
Reason follows the state of the heart - 'out of the heart'  
are the issues of life - defend, seek arguments according to the heart,  
heart full of fault, but in God, reason will take part with  
heart up in death, darkness, reason filled with  
objection, speculations.

" is right, faith as natural as flowers in spring.  
f. children.  
not right when sin takes over, fit men  
depart from God, then they deny him.

The hardening of the heart. 3: 13, 7, 8, 15  
The hardest heart one egg.  
The shell which holds the fossil shells over moist orgs  
limestone  
grows on a stone bed; so a most callous criminal.  
But hearts harden gradually  
f. freezing of a pond; can hardly be detected  
so thin a layer of ice is this a needle broken  
finally, shows a ways of being very