

The Consequences of Failure during Promise

- I.** The Nation Israel coming out of Egypt had visible demonstrations of God's providential care.
 - 1. Joseph's bones (Ex. 13:19; Josh. 24:32).
 - 2. Cloud by day, pillar of fire by night (Ex. 13:21-22; 14:24).
 - 3. Yet they repeatedly failed to believe that God would care for them: bitter water, hunger, Manna rules, and thirst.
 - 4. They wished God had never rescued them (Ex. 16:3).
- II.** God promised them the Land and blessings (Ex. 19:5-7).
 - 1. The only condition was to believe it.
 - 2. They also had basic rules for a civil society, but these did not require faith (Ex. 15:26; 18:20).
 - 3. The Nation rejected God's offer.
 - 1) "All that you say we will **do**", not "we will believe/guard".
 - 2) Presumptive, promising to do that which they could not achieve.
- III.** The Legal Age begins (Rom. 9:31-32; 10:2-3; 12:2).
 - 1. Men trying, hopelessly, to please God by their own strength.
 - 2. Men constructing their definition of righteousness.
 - 3. This is rejecting God's righteousness (Rom. 10:3).
- IV.** The Penalty of the Law.
 - 1. A human could never fulfill the Law—always broke some aspect of it (Mt. 5:17; Heb. 10:1-3; Rom. 7:5).
 - 2. It was an administration of death and condemnation (2 Cor. 3: 7, 9).
 - 3. It was a yoke of burden (Gal. 5:1 *cf.* 4:24-25).
 - 4. If one places himself under the Law then he must keep the whole Law: commandments, statutes, and judgments (Gal. 3:10; 5:3).
 - 5. The Law was a curse, doomed those under it (Gal. 3:13)
 - 6. Grace believers who place themselves under the Law really do not understand the Law (Gal. 4:21).
 - 7. The Father nailed the Law to Christ's cross (Col. 2:14).
 - 8. Laws, negative rules, are not for the spiritual New Testament believer (Rom. 6:14; Gal. 5:23).