

a question of honest doubt, but of sedition. Sin begins in the thoughts. Gen. vi. 5, Prov. xv. 26; xxiv. 9; Ezek. xxxviii. 10; Acts viii. 22; 2 Cor. x. 5. (2) *In action.* Thoughts main-springs of actions. LET US MAKE. They did "appoint" A CAPTAIN. Neh. ix. 17. Forgetting the heroic sacrifices and wondrous faith of Moses. Wholly regardless of God's repeated deliverances and infinite mercies. Murderers, cowards, ingrates, infidels. RETURN. Denying all allegiance to God, the Omnipotence of God alone can hinder their return to the slavery of Egypt. Thus from the very gates of heaven would the unbelieving return to the bondage of sin. Judges x. 13; Isa. i. 4; Jer. xv. 6; 2 Peter ii. 15; Rev. ii. 4, 5.

The true Christian finds it infinitely more difficult to beat down one sinful thought from rising up in him than to keep down a thousand sinful thoughts from breaking out into open action. Here lies the chief labor—to fight a phantasm or airy apparition, such as thoughts are.—*Bishop Hopkins.*

Unthankfulness is a monster in nature, a solecism in manners, a paradox in divinity, a parching mind to dry up the fountain of further favor.—*Trapp.*

4. REMONSTRANCE, vers. 5-9. (1) *An agony of prayer.* FELL ON THEIR FACES. The steadfast leaders had tried all other resources, Num. xiii. 30; Deut. i. 29; now they pray to the Almighty, BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY. See Num. xvi. 4, 22. Prayer—the "watchword at the gates of death." (2) *Symbols of grief.* JOSHUA and CALEB. See Num. xiii. 2, 6, 8, 30. RENT. Tore. Generally the outer garments were rent, sometimes the inner, sometimes both—to express grief, Gen. xxxvii. 29, 34; Job i. 20; fear, 1 Kings xxi. 27; 2 Kings xxii. 11, 19; indignation, 2 Kings v. 7; xi. 14; despair, Judges xi. 35; Esth. iv. 1. (3) *Heroic utterances.* SPANAE. Giving a correct description of THE LAND of Canaan. REBEL NOT. A charge bravely made, as well as an earnest exhortation. NEITHER FEAR . . . PEOPLE. To the brave, giants are but pigmies. BREAD FOR US. An easy conquest, as Pharaoh had been. Psa. lxxiv. 14. DEFENCE . . . DEPARTED. God's providence has deserted them.

Better stop now. Some years ago, near Princeton, New Jersey, some young men were skating on a pond around an "air-hole," and the ice began to break in. Some of them stopped; but a young man said, "I am not afraid! Give us one round

more!" He swung nearly round, when the ice broke, and not until next day was his lifeless body found. So men go on in sin: They are warned. They expect soon to stop. But they say, "Give us one round more!" They start, but with a wild crash break through into bottomless perdition. Do not risk it any longer. Stop now.—*Talmage.*

5. PERSECUTION, ver. 10. (1) *Carnality hates truth.* Rom. viii. 6, 7. ALL THE CONGREGATION are wholly unimpressed with the pious words of the two brave men. "Pearls before swine." Matt. vii. 6. (2) *Sin would ever slay its best friends.* BADE STONE. A favourite manifestation of their rage. Exod. xvii. 4; 1 Sam. xxx. 6. So would they stone Jesus. John viii. 59. Sin would drive all goodness from the earth, and change heaven into hell. God's children must expect worldly opposition. John xvi. 32.

6. PUNISHMENT, ver. 10. (1) *Salvation for the righteous.* GLORY . . . APPEARED. See ver. 14. The brave and pious leaders are saved. Their prayers avail. James v. 16-18. The whole CONGREGATION see the bright shining of God's presence, and become powerless. (2) *Destruction to the wicked.* THE LORD APPEARED—(a) to save the faithful; (b) to "smite" and "disinherit" the faithless CONGREGATION. See verses 11, 12. For their multiplied acts of rebellion (ver. 22) God now declares that nearly all the host that came out of Egypt shall never reach Canaan. They shall "fall in the wilderness;" and their "children" shall "wander forty years." Verses 31-33. Those who came not under the punishment were CALEB, ver. 24; JOSHUA, vers. 30, 33; Eleazar the priest, Num. iv. 16; xiv. 29; Josh. xiv. 1; and probably the tribe of Levi, who were not among those "numbered," Num. i. 46, 47; xiv. 29; and were not represented by the twelve spies. Num. xiii. 4-15. It has been estimated that at least a million Israelites perished in the wilderness by reason of their murmurings and unbelief. Who can number the millions who, through unbelief, fail to reach the heavenly Canaan? Faith in Christ is alone the sinner's hope. Compare Heb. iii. 19, and iv. 1, 2, 14-16.

The thought of the future punishment for the wicked which the Bible reveals, is enough to make an earthquake of terror, in every man's soul.—*Beecher.*

It is reported of Cæsar that, having prepared a great feast for his friends, it so falling out that the day was foul, and nothing could be done with comfort, he was so en-