

The O.T. I N the Life of the Believer

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Lecture XX

We called Capital A. Dissaffection in the outer parts of the camp. And we noticed how in this case the Lord intervened with the fire of Taberah. He intervened with this dissaffection in the outer part of the camp, and yet it proceeded. It makes you think what it might have been if the Lord had not thus intervened. We mentioned last time when we were speaking of this that we cannot always count on the Lord's intervening in such a way. When the little work was just starting and God was determined it should be carried forward He worked great miracles in order to prevent its destruction. When Ananias lied to the -- about what he had given and there began a process which could have destroyed the early church, God intervened and killed Ananias, but He does not do that as a rule. As a rule He allows a great amount of success of particular movements to depend on our human loyalty or disloyalty to Him, on how well we think things through, how energetically we work. The result is that you cannot say, of anything, this is the Lord's work, it is bound to succeed. We can't say that today, because the Lord on account of our failure and our weakness permits failure to come. And the number of works for the Lord that have failed is far greater than the number that have succeeded. They have not failed because the Lord could not make them succeed. They have failed because He chooses to work through human beings. And we are all sinful and frail, we make mistakes. The wonder is that His work has succeeded to so great an extent despite the failure and weakness of human beings.

Now in this case I don't believe that I mentioned Capital B. Widespread disaffection and longing for Egyptian food. This is ch. 11:4-10. We read here in vs. 4 "And the mixed multitude that was among them fell to lusting and the children of Israel also wept again and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?" We remember the fish that we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our soul is dried away; there is nothing at all besides this manna before our eyes." x Note No. 1 -p-- The Part Played by the Mixed Multitude.