

verse 6 – They set their hearts on evil things

verse 7 – They turned to idolatrous practices

verse 8 – They committed sexual immorality

verse 9 – They tested the Lord

verse 10 - They grumbled

Now these statements are admittedly brief and somewhat cryptic. In order to understand them we need to contextualize them in their Old Testament background. We need to know more specifically what the Israelites did that brought God's anger on them.

In verse 6 Paul says that they set their hearts on evil things. When we go back to Numbers 11, we find that they became dissatisfied with God's provision for their needs, and longed after the foods they had enjoyed in Egypt.

In verse 7 Paul says that they turned to idolatrous practices. In Exodus 32 we discover that the children of Israel became dissatisfied with the form of worship God had chosen, and decided to worship in their own way, even though God had forbidden it.

In verse 8 Paul says that they committed sexual immorality. In Numbers 25 we learn that they became dissatisfied with their own women, and committed fornication with the pagan women of Moab and with their gods.

In verse 9 Paul states that they tested the Lord. In Numbers 21 we see that they became dissatisfied with the way the Lord was leading them to the Promised