

“Graves of Lust”

Numbers Chapter 11

Chapters 1-9 God has been preparing Israel to journey to the Promised Land.
Chapter 10 God Says “GO”. a) At His Signal b) In His Order c) Taking someone with you
Chapter 11 Illustrates why an 11 day journey will take 38 years.

God does not have Moses document every day of 38 years. Moses writes the highlights of the journey.

Moses also didn't write these things for the Israel in the wilderness to read. He wrote them for you and me.

- Romans 15:4 “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:6 “Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.”

Numbers 10:33 says they have journeyed 3 days, Then Chapter 11.

Num 11:1 1) Taberah - Contagious Complaining vs 1-10

Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard *it*, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed *some* of the outskirts of the camp.

- In a very short time - “They became like those who complain of adversity” The children of Israel were not whining about some horrible adversity that is upon them. They are murmuring about doing what God has them doing.
- God, with a mighty display, delivered them, redeemed them, organized them, instructed them, cleansed them, blessed them, and given them His presence to guide them and assure them. God instructs them to march to a Promised Land and they complain.
- God hears our complaining.
- This angers God. It isn't that man complains in adversity, it is complaining like you in adversity when you are doing God's will.
- The Fire of the Lord that guides them also judges them. Some at the outskirts are destroyed. Those in the outskirts would have been the mixed multitude (verse 4 & Exodus 12:38)

Num 11:2 The people therefore cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD and the fire died out.

Num 11:3 So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the LORD burned among them.

- The people cried to Moses about the Fire. (Judgment) – Interesting it was their complaining hearts that caused the trouble and when judgment came they didn't really repent before God they went to Moses to intercede for them.
- **Taberah** - means Burning. It is interesting Israel's history map is marked with placed named after their failings. If we were honest, as we look back at our own history we have similar markings. Places where our mistakes God judged and corrected us. At the time those were difficult but in looking back God worked in us a good work that usually resulted in a greater fruit.
- Hebrews 12:5-11 “MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD, NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM; FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.” *It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”*

Num 11:4 The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, "Who will give us meat to eat?"

- The “rabble” (KJV = *mixed multitude*) are those who were left Egypt with Israel who thought it best to go with them. (Exodus 12:38) Not only were they mixed nationally but spiritually as well. Some would believe in the God of Israel and others were hang arounds.

- **Matthew 13:24-30** Jesus tells us that the wheat and tares grow together. And not to pull out the tares for we may damage the wheat. But at the harvest they will be dealt with.
 - But we do need to know tares are with us and can affect us negatively.
- These people begin to complain with "greedy desires". (KJV= *fell a lusting*) for food of Egypt.
- This complaining and lusting by the mixed multitude is contagious. Israel joined them in their cry for Egypt's meat.
- When discontent we all do the same thing. We remember the past with a filter that blocks out the unpleasant things of the past.

Num 11:5 "We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic,

Num 11:6 but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna."

Num 11:7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium.

Num 11:8 The people would go about and gather *it* and grind *it* between two millstones or beat *it* in the mortar, and boil *it* in the pot and make cakes with it; and its taste was as the taste of cakes baked with oil.

Num 11:9 When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall with it.

- The mixed multitude started this. Israel chimed in. They remembered Egypt.
- Forgotten was the task masters whip. The burning kilns. The unreasonable quota. The oppression. Their cries for deliverance.
- They asked about meat (verse 4) yet they remember fish, fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices.
 - God never said they could not eat meat. They could have hunted or ate from their own flocks. God provided manna. God gave them not only manna for their stomachs but assurance that He will provide.
 - It is interesting what they were remembering wasn't meat per se but spices. The church has fallen into this same error. We are not content with what God provides. We need to spice it up with what the world has. We are not content with bread from heaven. We have to spice it up to please the mixed multitude to get more of the mixed multitude who complain.
 - Warren Wiersby "*We are substituting things for the Word of God in the church. The sanctuary has become a theater, preaching has been replaced with performance, and worship has been replaced with entertainment*"
 - Our churches have a taste for Egypt. We cannot allow the mixed multitude to dictate to those who are spiritual how the church ought to function. We cannot have their lust be our direction. We must find our contentment in the Bread from heaven.
- Their complaint was more about this boring manna. Their lust for a false image of the past has ruined their present and future.
- Their whining is exaggerated. The KJV has verse 6 saying "*but now our soul is dried away*".
 - This may be truer than it appears. When we lust after other things (cars, people, jobs, toys, churches) we lose the appetite for what is with us right now.

Num 11:10 Now Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, each man at the doorway of his tent; and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly, and Moses was displeased.

- It is amazing how lust and complaining reduces a man to a child's behavior. Weeping in their house over manna.
- The Lord was angered. Moses is displeased. Moses being frustrated went to the right place. He went to the Lord.

Num 11:11 **2) The Lord Hears Moses' Complaint** vs 11-23

Moses Speaks **So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have You been so hard on Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all this people on me?"**

- Complaining is a lack of trust in the Lord. Moses himself complains to God. The times where the ministry the Lord has you in becomes frustrating is the time to trust. It is very easy to

complain. Moses did it. I can surly find myself complaining. But it still remains lack of trust in the Lord.

- Moses has been doing everything right. And yet his ministry can feel hard, a burden. It can feel as though the Lord's blessing is gone.
- 1 Thessalonians 3:3 NLT "to keep you from becoming disturbed by the troubles you were going through. But, of course, you know that such troubles are going to happen to us Christians."

Num 11:12 "Was it I who conceived all this people? Was it I who brought them forth, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom as a nurse carries a nursing infant, to the land which You swore to their fathers'?"

Num 11:13 "Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me, saying, 'Give us meat that we may eat!'"

Num 11:14 "I alone am not able to carry all this people, because it is too burdensome for me.

Num 11:15 "So if You are going to deal thus with me, please kill me at once, if I have found favor in Your sight, and do not let me see my wretchedness."

- Moses reminds the Lord it was the Lord who called them out, who is bringing them to a Promise Land.
- Moses tells the Lord Now that they are here, they are acting like babies. Moses says, "I'm not about to take over. I cannot carry them. I cannot feed them."
- If it is all on me and me alone, KILL ME! God never expected Moses to bear the weight alone.

Num 11:16 The LORD therefore said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and their officers and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you.
The Lord Speaks

Num 11:17 "Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put *Him* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear *it* all alone.

- The Lord ordains help for Moses. They were called Elders.
 - YOU KNOW TO BE ELDERS - they were not becoming elders. They were already functioning as elders before they were called.
 - THEY ARE TO TAKE THEIR STAND - They are to show strength and solidarity.
 - I WILL TAKE OF THE SPIRIT WHO IS UPON YOU AND PUT HIM UPON THEM - Elders must have the same heart, vision and spirit and work together in agreement. They are to do their work in the Spirit not in the strength of flesh.
 - THEY SHALL BEAR THE BURDEN - God has designed a team of godly men to meet the needs of his people. One man alone does not accomplish the ministry He intends.

Num 11:18 "Say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, "Oh that someone would give us meat to eat! For we were well-off in Egypt.'" Therefore the LORD will give you meat and you shall eat.

Num 11:19 'You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days,

Num 11:20 but a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you; because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"'"

- It was the Lord who brought them out of Egypt. It is the Lord who is caring for them and bringing them to the Promised Land.
- What a blasphemous statements.
 - *We were well off in Egypt. Why did we ever leave?* God is angered in their ungratefulness.
- The Lord will give them what they are lusting for. Meat. Meat. Meat. Meat. Meat. Meat and that is just breakfast. They will have meat until they are sick of it.
- Psalm 106:15 NKJV "And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul."

Num 11:21 But Moses said, "The people, among whom I am, are 600,000 on foot; yet You have
Moses Speaks said, 'I will give them meat, so that they may eat for a whole month.'

Num 11:22 "Should flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to be sufficient for them? Or should
all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to be sufficient for them?"

Num 11:23 The LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD'S power limited? Now you shall see whether
The Lord Speaks My word will come true for you or not."

- Moses is trying to figure out How in the World is this going to happen?
- The Lord said "It's not of this world. It is done by the UNLIMITED POWER OF GOD."

Num 11:24 **3) Empowering Help for Moses** vs 24-30

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. Also, he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and stationed them around the tent.

Num 11:25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed *Him* upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do *it* again.

Num 11:26 But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp.

Num 11:27 So a young man ran and told Moses and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

Num 11:28 Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, "Moses, my lord, restrain them."

Num 11:29 But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!"

Num 11:30 Then Moses returned to the camp, *both* he and the elders of Israel.

- Moses did as the Lord commanded. He gathered 70 elders.
- The Lord did as He said He would. He empowered them for a unified Spirit lead ministry. The Holy Spirit was upon them to fulfill their duty.
- When the Spirit came upon them they prophesied. This was a one time gifting for prophesy. It did not happen as the elder willed it. But only this one time by the will of the Spirit.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another [divers] kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."*
 - These manifestations are given BY THE SPIRIT, not by the will of man.
- An interesting account occurred where 2 of the elders were in the camp for whatever reason. The Lord didn't leave them out and the Spirit came upon them and they prophesied in the camp.
- Joshua heard of it and thought that these men were trying to usurp Moses' authority.
- Moses was not the least jealous of any who were genuinely filled with the Spirit and doing His work. Moses desired that *"All the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them."*
- Mark 9:38-40 *"John said to Him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to prevent him because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not hinder him, for there is no one who will perform a miracle in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is for us.'"*

Num 11:31 **4) Kibroth-hattaavah - Judgment on Complaining** vs 31-35

Now there went forth a wind from the LORD and it brought quail from the sea, and let *them* fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp and about two cubits *deep* on the surface of the ground.

- God sends a wind from the sea and with it QUAIL.
- The massive density with which they came upon the land show how powerful is right arm is.
- The Quail covered the ground in a perimeter around the camp by 1 day journey. The mention of 2 cubits deep may seem to be another incredible miracle; but might more likely mean that they flew in 3 feet above the ground.

Num 11:32 The people spent all day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail (he who gathered least gathered ten homers) and they spread *them* out for themselves all around the camp.

Num 11:33 While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very severe plague.

- The lust for meat has reached the apex and for a day and a half the people gathered quail. They gathered all their perverted hearts would allow them to gather. It says nothing about them gathering manna. They simply ignored God's provision for their cravings.
- 10 homers is 60 bushels. The least gathered.
- The ungratefulness angered the Lard and while they were still chewing and number of those in Israel died.
- Psalm 78:27-31 "*When He rained meat upon them like the dust, Even winged fowl like the sand of the seas, Then He let them fall in the midst of their camp, Round about their dwellings. So they ate and were well filled, And their desire He gave to them. Before they had satisfied their desire, While their food was in their mouths, The anger of God rose against them And killed some of their stoutest ones, And subdued the choice men of Israel.*"

Num 11:34 So the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy.

- Kibroth-hattaavah = "Graves of Lust"
- The Manna - God's provision - is sweet, satisfying, sustained Israel 38 years.
- The Quail - Man's cravings - is spicy, doesn't satisfy, bring sickness and death.

Num 11:35 From Kibroth-hattaavah the people set out for Hazeroth, and they remained at Hazeroth.

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