

God's People Complained

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God's People Complained Numbers 11

There was a time when the Israelites started complaining about how hard their lives had become after leaving Egypt. They did not think about how they cried and begged the Lord to free them and protect them from Egyptian control. They gave no thought to



where GOD was taking them or to God's being able to see and hear them constantly complain. But GOD did see and hear them. Actually, their attitude made God angry. Many of those with the worse attitudes lived on the outer edges of the camp. God knew they would never appreciate what he had done for them. A fire started on the outer edges of the camp and burned among the people as if it were alive.

The Israelites panicked and cried as they ran to Moses because they could not stop the fire. They told Moses that they were really sorry for what they had said and done. They asked Moses to go to the Lord on their behalf to stop the fire from burning. When Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire stopped burning.



Moses named the place Taberah which means burning because of the way the fire of the Lord burned among the people.

There were people from other countries who followed the Israelites as they left Egypt. These people began to reminisce about and crave for familiar foods they had when they were in Egypt. Their sharing these memories of food in the hearing of the people of God started most people to strongly desire foods they had when they were in Egypt.



The Israelites began to say, "We remember the meat and fish we use to eat. We ate anything we wanted in Egypt, *and* it did not cost us anything. Remember the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic we had? But now, in this place, we grow bored because there is nothing to eat except this

manna."

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Manna was like small white seeds. The people gathered it and ground it in mills or crushed it into flour, and boiled it in pots, or baked it with sweet olive oil and made cakes of it. When the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell with it. People collected it in the morning.

Moses heard many of the people all standing around feeling sorry for themselves, regretting that they were on this journey. He knew this was making the Lord angry. Moses did not want to be positioned between the people

and the Lord. Moses went to the Lord and said, "Why am I in this position? Why must I bare the burden of all these complaining people? Each one of them acts as if I am their father and they are small children who can barely walk."

"Lord, where am I going to find meat to give to all these people? They expect me to provide for them. You know I am not able to provide for all these people by myself. It is just too much for me. I have done everything that You have asked me to do. Please do not let me live to see that I have failed these people or that I have failed You. If this is the way that you are going to deal with me, just go ahead and kill me."



God told Moses to go and get seventy men, elders and officers who care about the people. God said, "Bring them to the tent of meetings so that we can share with them together. I will place upon them the

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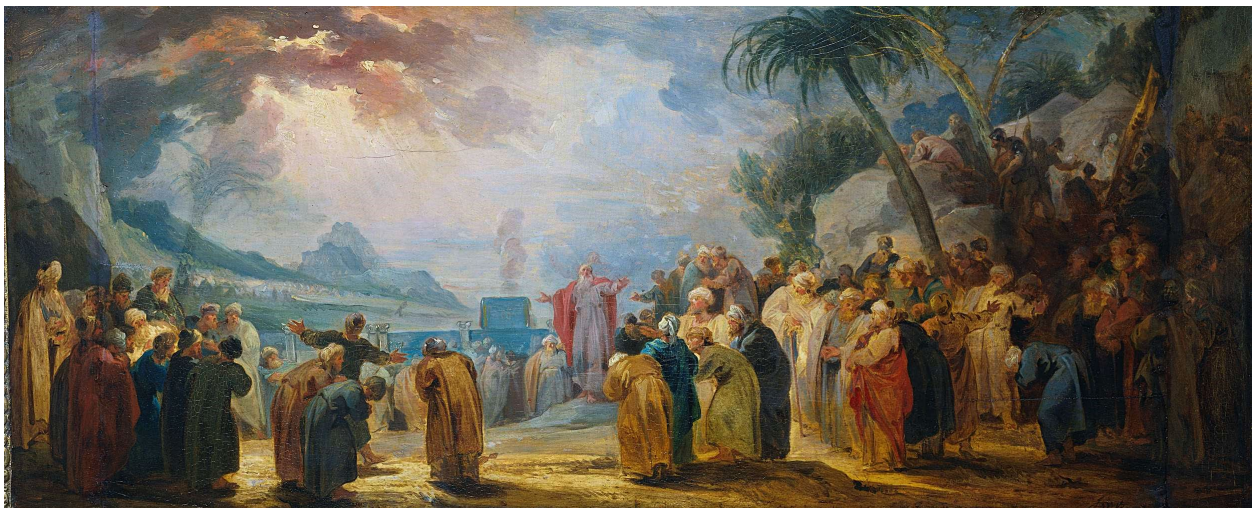
same Spirit which is upon you. They will help you with the burden of the people, so that you do not have to bear it alone. Tell the people to consecrate themselves and to prepare for tomorrow. Tomorrow they will all eat meat."

God said, "Since they have been crying for meat in this manner, saying, 'Who will give us meat to eat like it was in Egypt?,' I will give them meat. They will not eat meat for just one day, or two, or five, or ten, or twenty days, but for a whole month. They will eat meat until they are sick of it and vomit it up. Until vomit comes out of their noses and they cannot stand the sight of it. All because they have rejected *and* despised what I have done for them, asking 'Why did we leave Egypt?'"

Moses said, "Lord there are 600,000 men, not counting all the women and children. You said you will give them meat, enough to eat for a whole month! Shall we kill all the flocks and herds to have enough meat for them or shall we catch all the fish in the sea to satisfy them?"

The Lord said to Moses, "Have My arms become too short or too weak to take care of my people? Did I say that you would feed the people? Watch and see My word come to pass."

Moses did as God requested. He went out and told the people to consecrate themselves and he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and he told them to meet him at the Tent.



The Lord came down in a cloud and spoke to Moses and shared the Spirit that was on Moses with the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on the elders they prophesied, praising God, and declaring His will. Then they suddenly stopped.

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There were two men in the camp who should have been at the meeting. Their names were Eldad and Medad. The Spirit rested on them, just as if they were with those who were in the tent. Still, they prophesied in the camp.

A young man ran and told Moses that the two men were prophesying in the camp.

Joshua, the son of Nun, Moses's assistant and one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, tell them to stop!"

Instead of telling them to stop, Moses said, "Do you think I am jealous of them? I wish all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon all of them!"

Then Moses went back into the camp, with all of the elders who were prophesying.

The next morning, the Lord caused the wind to blow so hard that it caused quail to fly inward, away from the sea. They flew so low around the camp that the people were able to hold up nets and baskets and catch them. They were able to walk miles in any direction, catching quail. Moses was amazed at how The LORD kept his promise.



People spent all that day and all night and all the next day catching quail.

The person who caught the least number of quail caught over ten bushels worth. People were able to spread the birds out and cook them in the sun.

The people were stuffing themselves each day on the meat. Just as the Lord said, they started getting sick of meat. Meat, meat, meat...nothing but meat. The Lord became angry with the people. They knew only the Lord could have arranged for them to have so much meat, but not one person ever thought to give the Lord thanks or praise. They only thought about gouging themselves. Since they were so unthankful and ungrateful, in addition to them vomiting meat, the Lord punished them by sending a very great plague. Some people died from gluttony, some from the plague.

That place was called Kibroth-hattaavah [the graves of sensuous desire], because they buried the people who lusted so much for meat that their physical appetite caused them to sin by not appreciating what the Lord had done.

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When their punishment was over, the Israelites moved from Kibroth-hattaavah to Hazeroth. They set up camp and stayed there a while, but not one person complained.

