

Numbers 11:1-35 **Complaints of the People – Response of Moses and Yehowah**

Complaints bring the Fire of Yehowah

¹ Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the LORD burned among them, and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp. ² Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched. ³ So he called the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the LORD had burned among them.

Complaint – Nothing but this Manna

⁴ Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? ⁵ We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶ but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" ⁷ Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium. ⁸ The people went about and gathered it, ground it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, cooked it in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil. ⁹ And when the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell on it.

Moses wants out – Burden is too great

¹⁰ Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the LORD was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. ¹¹ So Moses said to the LORD, "Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all these people on me? ¹² Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,' to the land which You swore to their fathers? ¹³ Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.' ¹⁴ I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. ¹⁵ If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now--if I have found favor in Your sight--and do not let me see my wretchedness!"

Yehowah Commanded Moses to gather seventy elders to help

¹⁶ So the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. ¹⁷ Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.

God's answer to the people

¹⁸ Then you shall say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. ¹⁹ You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, ²⁰ but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you, and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?" ' "

Moses asked how to provide meat for so many people

21 And Moses said, "The people whom I am among are six hundred thousand men on foot; yet You have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month.' 22 "Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?"

God's answer

23 And the LORD said to Moses, "Has the LORD's arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not."

Seventy Elders gifted with the Holy Spirit to help Moses

24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. 25 Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.

Two prophesy in the camp

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 listed, but who had not gone out to the tabernacle; yet they prophesied in the camp. 27 And a young man ran and told Moses, and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." 28 So Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, one of his choice men, answered and said, "Moses my lord, forbid them!" 29 Then Moses said to him, "Are you zealous for my sake? Oh, that all the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!" 30 And Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

Wind brought quail from the sea

31 Now a wind went out from the LORD, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. 32 And the people stayed up all that day, 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.

Plague from Yehowah

33 But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was aroused against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very great plague. 34 So he called the name of that place Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving.

Journeying on

35 From Kibroth Hattaavah the people moved to Hazeroth, and camped at Hazeroth. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The people complained.
- ✧ Yehowah heard the complaining and it angered Him.
- ✧ Yehowah responded to the complaining by the fire of Yehowah which burned and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp.
- ✧ The people cried out to Moses about the consuming fire.

- ✧ Moses interceded in prayer to Yehowah.
- ✧ Yehowah accepted Moses' intercessory prayer and quenched the fire.
- ✧ Moses gave the place the name "Taberah" because the fire of Yehowah had burned among them. [Numbers 11:1-3]

- ✧ The mixed multitude who came out of Egypt with the Children of Israel [Exodus 12:38] yielded to intense craving for the produce fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic, they had enjoyed in Egypt and they influenced the Children of Israel to complain about the diet of Manna. [Numbers 11:4-9]
 - ✧ Manna was like coriander seed the color of bdellium (pearl, light amber) , it was able to be ground in the millstones, beaten in the mortar, cooked in pans, and made into cakes.
 - ✧ Its taste was like pastry made with oil. [Exodus 16:31]
 - ✧ When the dew fell, the manna fell on it.
- ✧ Yehowah was greatly angered by the complaints. [Numbers 11:10]
- ✧ Moses had all he could tolerate of the complaints as well. [Numbers 11:10-15]
- ✧ Moses asked for death because he felt he was "not able to bear all these people because the burden is too heavy for me."
- ✧ Yehowah instructed Moses to gather seventy men of the elders of Israel whom Moses knew to be leaders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the Tabernacle of Meeting. [Numbers 11:16-20]
- ✧ Yehowah said, "I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.
- ✧ Instruct the people, "Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat; for you have wept in the hearing of Yehowah, saying, 'Who will give us meat to eat? For it was well with us in Egypt.' Therefore Yehowah will give you meat to eat, and you shall eat."
 - ✧ You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised Yehowah Who is among you, and have wept before Him saying, "Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?"
- ✧ Moses said, "The people who I am among are 600,000 men not to mention the women and children and the aged. You said that You would give them meat to eat for a whole month. Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them to provide enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to provide enough for them?" [Numbers 11:21-22]
- ✧ Yehowah said to Moses, "Has Yehowah's arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether My word shall befall you or not." [Numbers 11:23]

- ✧ Moses went out and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the Tabernacle. [Numbers 11:24-26]
- ✧ Yehowah came down in a cloud, and talked with Moses. Yehowah took of the Spirit that was upon Moses and placed it upon the seventy.
 - ✧ This is a form of Baptism of the Holy Spirit accomplished in the early history of Israel, very similar to that of the Church since the Day of Pentecost.
 - ✧ When the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. However, they did not do it again.
 - ✧ The ability to prophecy was evidence that they were indeed filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - ✧ Two men, Eldad and Medad, among those listed, had not gone out to the Tabernacle but remained in the camp. The Spirit rested upon them in the camp. When the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied in the camp.

- ✧ A young man ran to tell Moses that “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” [\[Numbers 11:27-30\]](#)
 - ✧ Joshua, Moses’ assistant, suggested that Moses forbid them.
 - ✧ Moses said, “Are you zealous for my sake? **Oh that all Yehowah’s people were prophets and that Yehowah would put His Spirit upon them!**”
 - ✧ Moses and the elders returned to the camp.

- ✧ A wind went out from Yehowah and it brought quail from the sea, and left them fluttering about 2 cubits (3 feet) above the ground all around the camp and to a distance of about a days journey beyond the camp on all sides. [\[Numbers 11:31-32\]](#)
- ✧ The people stayed up gathering the quail all that day, all that night, and all the next day.
- ✧ When the meat was between their teeth before it was chewed, Yehowah struck the people with a very great plague. [\[Numbers 11:33-34\]](#)
- ✧ Moses named the place, **Kibroth Hattaavah**, because there they buried the people who had yielded to craving.
- ✧ This becomes an example to all following generations that it is dangerous to complain about things Yehowah allows to come into our lives to test our willingness to trust Him and our commitment to obedience to His commandments even when it seems tiresome to do so.
- ✧ The New Testament teaching is, “Do not grow weary in doing good.” [\[Galatians 6:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:13\]](#) With its warning and encouragement against growing weary. [\[Hebrews 12:3, Revelation 2:3\]](#)

- ✧ From Kibroth Hattaavah, they journeyed and camped at Hazeroth. [\[Numbers 11:35\]](#)