

In the Wilderness Series: Grumblers and Complainers

Timeline:

End of Exodus: 40:17 In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected.

Beginning of Numbers: 1:1a The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting, on the first day of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt...

- So, the events of **Numbers** take place one month after the end of **Exodus**.
 - It seems that the revelation was given for **Leviticus**, and the arrangement of all the priestly/ceremonial services were done in that month in between.

These Events are Examples and Illustrations to Warn Us:

1st Corinthians 10:5 - 6, 9 - 11

5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.

9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents,

10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.

11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction (*nouthesia*:: rebuke or warning, admonition), on whom the end of the ages has come.

Hebrews 4:5 – 6, 11

5 And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest."

6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience

11 Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

Philippians 2:14 – 15

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world

What Does the LORD Hate?

Proverbs 6:16 – 19

16 There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him:

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil,

19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord (conflict, contention, dissension) among brothers.

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Chapter 11:

- **Verses 1 – 3**, present a template that we'll see repeated for the rest of this book:
 - The people complain.
 - God will judge them.
 - Moses intercedes.
 - The LORD will deliver.
 - And then the naming of a place to help them remember the lesson.
- **Verse 3:** *Taberah* means "burning"
 - To forever serve as a reminder of God's judgment against the complaining.
- **Verse 4:** Remember this rabble and their strong craving when we come to **verses 33** and **34**.
- **Verses 10 – 15:** with these complaints of Moses, we are reminded that even he is awaiting the "true and better Moses."
 - **Hebrews 3:5 - 6**
5 Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later,
 - **6** but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.
- **Verse 30:** Moses' request for relief has been granted, and he is now returning to the camp with these newly "spirit-equipped" elders.
- **Verse 32:** This is an absurd amount of meat. Ten homers is the equivalent of 60 bushels or 480 dry gallons or 2,200 liters—an estimate of about 1,900 birds weighing about 475 pounds.

Psalm 78:26 - 31

26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;

27 he rained meat on them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;

28 he let them fall in the midst of their camp, all around their dwellings.

29 And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

30 But before they had satisfied their craving, while the food was still in their mouths,

31 the anger of God rose against them, and he killed the strongest of them and laid low the young men of Israel.

- **Verse 34:** *Kibroth Hattaavah* means "Graves of Craving."

Chapter 12:

- **Verse 1:** the word "spoke" in Hebrew is in the third feminine singular, referring to Miriam.
- **Verse 2:** "and the LORD heard it" – same Hebrew phrase as in **Number 11:1**

Habakkuk 3:7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble.

- **Verse 14:** Spitting in the face was an act of contempt for one who had done something considered despicable.
 - For examples see: **Deuteronomy 25:9**, **Job 17:6**; **30:10**, **Isaiah 50:6**, and **Matthew 26:67**