

Numbers 11 - Israel Complains; Quails

II. Failure of the first generation (Num 11:1—25:18)

(1) Failure en route to Kadesh (Num 11:1—12:16)

(A) Failure of Israel (11:1-15)

(a) Failure of the people (11:1-9)

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(B) God's provision (11:16-35)

(a) God provides for Moses (11:16-30)

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Journey to Kadesh Barnea: "What Might Have Been" (Num 10-14)

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Numbers 11

II. Failure of the first generation (Num 11:1—25:18)

(1) Failure en route to Kadesh (Num 11:1—12:16)

(A) Failure of Israel (11:1-15)

(a) Failure of the people (11:1-9)

(i) Complaining at Taberah (11:1-3)

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

1 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.

1 Eventually, the people began complaining about their distress, and the LORD heard them. When the LORD heard, his anger flared up and the LORD's fire incinerated some of them within the outskirts of the camp.

1 And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.

- We can be sure that the Lord is displeased with many of the criticizing, complaining saints today

- They are everlastingly finding fault and nothing seems to please them

2 The people then cried out to Moses; and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died out.

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

2 When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire stopped.

2 And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

3 So that place was named **Taberah**, because the fire of the LORD burned among them.

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

3 He then named that place Taberah, because the LORD's fire had incinerated some of them.

3 And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.

- "...Taberah" = "burning"

- This did not become a normal place name, however, as its omission from the later itinerary lists clearly shows (33:16-17)

(ii) Complaining about diet (11:4-9)

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

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?"

4 Meanwhile, certain riff-raff among the people had an insatiable appetite for food. As a result, they wept and turned back, and the Israelis cried out, "If only somebody would feed us some meat!"

4 And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

5 We remember the fish which we used to eat for free in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic;
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,
5 How we remember the fish that we used to eat in Egypt for free! And the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic!
5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

6 but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna!"
6 but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna."
6 But now we can't stand it anymore, because there's nothing in front of us except this manna."
6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.
- There are "mixed multitudes" in every church: still with one foot in the "world" not fully committed, indefinite pedigree...
- And, complaining is contagious...

7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium.
7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium.
7 Now manna was reminiscent of coriander seed, with an appearance similar to amber.
7 And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium.

8 The people would roam about and gather *it* and grind *it* between two millstones, or pound *it* in the mortar, and boil *it* in the pot and make loaves with it; and its taste was like the taste of cake *baked with oil*.

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.

8 People would go out to gather it, then they would grind it in mills or pound it in mortars, and then they would boil it in pots or make cakes out of it that tasted like butter cakes.

8 And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.

9 When the dew came down on the camp at night, the manna would come down with it.

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

9 When the dew fell in the camp, the manna came with it.

9 And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.

- Deuteronomy: their feet did not swell; they did not get beriberi from eating the manna; manna had all the necessary vitamins in it: it was God's food: a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ

Manna

- *man hu'*, "what is it?"

- It was in thin flakes, white like coriander seed (an herb), looked like resin, tasted like honey wafers; like "something made with olive oil"

- An omer (two quarts) kept in a jar in/near the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies

- Manna was supplied until the nation came to Gilgal, where they began to eat the produce of the land (Josh 5:12)

The only contents in the ark were the two stone tablets of the Law (2 Chr 5:10). The author of Hebrews wrote that the ark also contained Aaron's rod and a pot of manna (Heb 9:4).

This is nowhere attested in the Old Testament (Ex 16:33-34 and Num 17:10 state that the rod and manna were placed in front of the tabernacle, not in the ark).

(b) Failure of Moses (11:10-15)

10 Now Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, each one at the entrance of his tent; and the anger of the LORD became very hot, and Moses was displeased.

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.

10 Moses heard the people weeping throughout their entire families. Everyone gathered at the entrance to their tents so that the LORD was very angry. Moses thought the situation was bad,

10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

11 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 put the burden of all this people on me?"

11 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?"

11 so he asked the LORD, "Why did you bring all this trouble to your servant? Why haven't I found favor in your eyes? After all, you're putting the burden of this entire people on me!"

11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?

12 Was it I who conceived all this people? Or did I give birth to them, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your arms, as a nurse carries a nursing infant, to the land which You swore to their fathers'?

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'?

12 Did I conceive this people or give birth to them, so that you would tell me to carry them near my heart like a wet nurse carries a suckling baby to the land that you promised to their forefathers?

12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldst say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers?

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

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!'

13 Where am I going to get meat to give this people? After all, they're crying in front of me, 'Give us meat to eat!'

13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat.

14 I am not able to carry all this people by myself, because it is too burdensome for me.

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

14 I cannot carry this whole nation! The burden is too heavy for me!

14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me.

15 So if You are going to deal with me this way, please kill me now, if I have found favor in Your sight, and do not let me see my misery."

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."

15 If this is how you treat me, please kill me right now, if I've found favor in your eyes, because I don't want to keep staring at all of this misery!"

15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

(B) God's provision (11:16-35)

(a) God provides for Moses (11:16-30)

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 have them take their stand there with you.

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.

16 Then the LORD told Moses, "Gather together for me 70 men who are elders of Israel, men whom you know to be elders of the people and officers over them. Then bring them to the Tent of Meeting and let them stand there with you.

16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee.

- These 70 ultimately may have become the Sanhedrin (which has recently been again re-established in Israel)

- This "committee" later crucified their Messiah!

17 Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take away some of the Spirit who is upon you, and put *Him* upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear *it* by yourself.

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.

17 Then I'll come down and speak with you. I'll take some of the spirit that rests on you and apportion it among them, so that they may help you bear the burden of the people. That way, you won't bear it by yourself."

17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

18 And you shall 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.

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.

18 "But give this command to the people: 'You are to consecrate yourselves, because tomorrow you're going to eat meat, since you've complained where the LORD can hear it, "Who can give us meat to eat? After all, life was better with us in Egypt." Therefore, the LORD is going to give you meat and you'll eat—

18 And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.

19 You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days,

19 You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days,

19 not only for a day, or for two days, or for five days, or for ten days, or for 20 days,

19 Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days;

20 but for a whole month, until it comes out of your nose and makes you nauseated; because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

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?"

20 but for a whole month—until it comes out your nostrils and makes you vomit. This is because you've despised the LORD, who is among you, and you cried out in his presence by complaining, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

20 But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?

- Ps 106:15: "And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

21 But Moses said, "The people, among whom I am *included*, are six hundred thousand on foot! Yet You have said, 'I will give them meat, so that they may eat for a whole month.'

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

21 Moses responded, "I'm with 600,000 people on foot and you're saying I am to give them enough meat to eat for a whole month?"

21 And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month.

22 Are flocks and herds to be slaughtered for them, so that it will be sufficient for them? Or are all the fish of the sea to be caught for them, so that it will be sufficient for them?"

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?"

22 What if we were to slaughter our entire inventory of flocks and herds for them? Would that be enough? What if we could gather all the fish in the sea in nets for them? Would that be enough, either?"

22 Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them?

- You never need to ask God "How?"

23 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD'S power too little? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not."

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

23 But the LORD responded to Moses, "Is the LORD short on power? You're now going to witness whether what I say will come to pass or not."

23 And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD's hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not.

24 So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. He also gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and positioned them around the tent.

24 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.

24 So Moses went out and told the people what the LORD had said. He gathered 70 men from the elders of the people and stationed them around the tent.

24 And Moses went out, and told the people the words of the LORD, and gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people, and set them round about the tabernacle.

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

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.

25 The LORD came down in a cloud, spoke to Moses, and made an apportionment from the spirit who rested on him to the 70 elders. When the spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but that was it.

25 And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

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

26 Now two men had remained in camp. One was named Eldad and the other was named Medad. When the spirit rested on them, since they were among those who were listed but had not gone out to the tent, they stayed behind and prophesied in the camp.

26 But there remained two of the men in the camp, the name of the one was Eldad, and the name of the other Medad: and the spirit rested upon them; and they were of them that were written, but went not out unto the tabernacle: and they prophesied in the camp.

27 So a young man ran and informed Moses, and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp."

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

27 A young man ran and reported to Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!"

27 And there ran a young man, and told Moses, and said, Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.

28 Then Joshua the son of Nun, the personal servant of Moses from his youth, responded and said, "My lord Moses, restrain them!"

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

28 In response, Nun's son Joshua, Moses' attendant and one of his choice men, exclaimed, "My master Moses! Stop them!"

28 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them.

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

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!"

29 "Are you jealous on account of me?" Moses asked in reply. "I wish all of the LORD's people were prophets and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!"

29 And Moses said unto him, Enviest thou for my sake? would God that all the LORD's people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit upon them!

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

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

30 Then Moses—that is, he and the elders of Israel—returned to the camp.

30 And Moses gat him into the camp, he and the elders of Israel.

(b) God provides for the people at Kibroth- hattaavah (11:31-35)

31 Now a wind burst forth from the LORD and it brought quail from the sea, and dropped *them* 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.

31 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.

31 Just then, a wind burst forth from the LORD, who brought quails from the sea and spread them all around the camp, about a day's journey in each direction, completely encircling the camp about two cubits deep on top of the ground!

31 And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.

32 And the people spent all that day, all night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quail (the one who gathered least gathered ten homers) and spread *them* out for themselves all around the camp.

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.

32 The people stayed up all that day, all that night, and all through the next day, gathering quails. The one who gathered least gathered enough to fill ten omers, as they spread out all around the camp.

32 And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all

abroad for themselves round about the camp.

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.

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.

33 But even as they were chewing the meat and before they had swallowed it, the LORD became very angry with the people and struck them with a disastrous plague.

33 And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.

- 10 Homers = 86 gallons (without refrigeration)

34 So that place was named Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy.

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

34 That's why the place was named Kibroth-hattaavah, because they buried the people there who had an insatiable appetite for meat.

34 And he called the name of that place Kibroth-hattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted.

- Kibroth-hattaavah ("graves of craving"): because there they buried the people who had craved other food

- Paul later said of the enemies of Christ, "Their god is their stomach" (Phil 3:9)

- No doubt terrified by their experience there, the people moved on to Hazeroth (possibly presentday Ain Khadra), just south of the Desert of Paran

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

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

35 Later, the people left Kibroth-hattaavah for Hazeroth and camped there.

35 And the people journeyed from Kibroth-hattaavah unto Hazeroth; and abode at Hazeroth.