



**Beware of the Next
Pandemic:
The Pandemic of
Complaining!**

Numbers 11:1-3

- In this episode of the Israelites' journey, God's people had left Egypt, spent some time at Mount Sinai, and were headed to the land promised to them by God—the land of Canaan
- More than forty years had passed since Moses had fulfilled the passage about himself in Hebrews 11:24-25

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer the affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.”

Question: What enabled Moses to make this difficult choice?

HIS FAITH!

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

Observations

- But faith is a grace that doesn't stand alone
- It soon becomes the parent of other graces, 2 Peter 1:5-7
- God has told us who He is, but He also tells us who He will be to His people: "A REWARDER" Hebrews 11:6
- So then, the promises of resting or trusting in God should rekindle Hope in our present circumstances, whatever they are (physical, mental, financial, social, spiritual, parental)
- Church, leading women and men who have Moses' character, can renew a positive trust in God for its church members, during their difficult circumstances

"Remember them that have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God; considering the end of their conversation (result of their conduct)." Hebrews 13:7

Besides Moses, the Children of Israel Were Also Led By the Pillar of Cloud

- It not only went before them but is said to have been “upon them,” as a guide Numbers 10:33-34

“So they set out from the mountain of the Lord and travelled for three days. The ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them during those three days to find them a place to rest. The cloud of the Lord was over them by day (upon them) when they set out from the camp

1 Corinthians 10:1

“For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.”

Observations

- That cloud was a symbol of God's protection for them
- Look at David's description of the Israelites' protection:
"He spread out a cloud as a covering, and a fire to give light at night." Psalms 105:39
- Look at another image that describes God's protection in Psalms 91:4, *"He shall cover you with His feathers and under His wings shalt thou trust. His truth shall be thy shield and buckler (fend off all harm)." God's word keeps us from a lot of trouble! (the converse is also true)*
- Therefore, the children of Israel were privileged in having a leader like Moses, a man of unwavering hope in the promises of God
- They were also privileged to have God's visible protection unlike any other nation on earth (pillars of cloud and fire)

But, Even With These Assurances the Children of Israel Complained!

“Now the people of Israel complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when He heard them his anger was aroused.....” Numbers 11:1, N.I.V.

- **The context of the word “complained” here, suggests that this was not just “murmuring,” but a pattern of whispers and looks of discontent (grumbled)**
- **There is no special reason given for their discontent (the manna (bread) didn’t stop falling, nor there was a failure to defeat a hostile army along the way)**
- **We know that the journey had to get weary, the constant travel, the fatigue (some normal days are exhausting for us)**

But They Had Developed This General Attitude of Displeasure/Complaining

- To God's children in this text, complaining about their situation had developed as part of their everyday routine!
- This wasn't their first time, "whining to God!"
- After leaving Egypt, God had led them to a desert. This was their reaction: Exodus 16:2-3

"In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve the entire assembly to death."

- After this grumbling and complaining, God sent manna and quail into their campsite. But amazingly, God's children hadn't learned from their past experiences

The Problems With Complaining

#1 Complaining is a Gratitude Problem

- We complain because we think that we should experience pleasure rather than pain and prosperity rather than adversity in our situations
- This is us in prayer: *“Lord my car broke down and it will cost me \$900, which I don’t have, to fix it. Why me Lord? The T.V. stopped working and so did the dishwasher, the clothes dryer last week and the lawn mower the week before that. Why are you punishing me this way? Lord why am I still having financial problems at this age? Why am I not set for life like other folks I know that aren’t as half as good as I am?”*
- Rather than this prayer: *“Lord who am I that I should have a car, a T.V. set or sets, central heating and air, a washer and dryer, and a lawn for a lawnmower in the first place? “Who am I to be born in America after the slaves were freed?” “At least 1 million have died from COVID in the U.S. since 2019. Lord, why not me? Lord, I am just thankful.”*

Philippians 2:14-15

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”

“Lord why bless me to be so fortunate when I could be here?!”

***Ukraine-6million
refugees-7million
displaced people***



#2 Complaining is a Perception Problem

- When we constantly complain, our perception is faulty
- The Children of Israel exaggerated their memory of the past; Ex 16:2-3 *“We sat around pots of meat and ate all we wanted.” (Folks they were slaves!)*
- We, like they, *“fantasize”* about the benefits of the past (ask grandma abouts her civil rights and dogs)
- If you live in the past you may die too soon in the future! Be prayerful and careful when information is “fluid!”

Eph. 5:15, says ignorance can cost you!



#3 Their Complaining Frustrated God's Grace

- Look at Numbers 11:1

“And when the people complained it displeased the Lord, and the Lord heard it; and His anger was aroused, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed them that were of the outskirts (outlying parts) of the camp.”

- When we refuse to be satisfied (content) with our lives and (constantly whine) about our circumstances as God presents them to us, it's offensive to Him
- God was so mad that he “burnt up” some complainers in the camp; those on the “outskirts”(those that socially distanced)
- Remember, God is a loving God who provides for our needs and hears our prayers. *“For I know the plans,”* Jeremiah 29:11
- Paul said in Philippians 4:11, *“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.”* Paul learned that, “what looks good to me may not be good for me!”

Brother Robert
Beeman Quoted
His Parents
Recently:

**“You Can Always
FIND Someone Worse
Off Than Yourself!”**

Jesus said, *“....Sufficient unto
the day is the evil thereof.”*

Matthew 6:34





The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38

