

Exodus 16:6-7

Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?"

I did a search for the word "**Complain**," and the first time it is mentioned in the bible is here in the book of Exodus, after God had delivered the Children of Israel out of Egypt. "**for He hears your complaints against the LORD.**"

Yet, we all complain once in a while, but some complain all the time. But whether it's once in a while or all the time, are we doing the same thing that the Children of Israel were doing? "**complaints against the LORD**"?

There are times that we worry and when we do, it's because our focus is on things of this world, not on things in heaven.

† **Colossians 3:2** *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

In today's verse, instead of worrying about things, the Children of Israel are complaining about them. People complain about so many things like, he or she doesn't like me. I hate my job. I hate my car. I hate my home. I am not happy in my marriage, I don't like my neighbors, etc....

When you read the book of Genesis, and what some of these guys went through, you discover that they went through some gnarly things. Think of Noah who spent 120 years building an ark. But we never read of him complaining about it, or while he is in the ark for almost a year we don't read of him complaining, or after he came out of the ark.

Abraham was called to a new land and had a wife who couldn't have children, even though she did when she was 90, and God asked Abraham to sacrifice that child, which was his only son, the son of promise from God. But with all that Abraham went through, we never read of Abraham complaining.

What about Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his brothers, and falsely accused of attempted rape. But you don't read of one mention of the word "**complain**" coming from him either. No, we don't read of the word complain at all in the book of Genesis, but we do in the next book, the book of Exodus. And who is complaining? God's chosen people, Israel. And that same complaining that they did, so do many in the church (The Bride of Christ) today.

But when we are complaining, do we realize that we are complaining against God and what He has given us? Hasn't He given us our job, our spouse, our kids, the church we are in, our family,

our friends, our home, our food, etc.... But when we complain against these things, we are actually complaining against God and what He has given us.

We love the verse that says to, ***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 But if we are complaining, how can we really be ***“rejoicing”*** and ***“giving thanks”***?

So, let’s stop complaining all of the time, or part of the time, about a lot of things, or a few things, but rather let’s truly start to ***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- † **Psalm 92:1-2** *It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High; To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night*
- † **Psalm 107:1** *Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.*
- † **Revelation 11:17** *saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.*