

Numbers 11:1

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.

Complain, complain, complain. When you read the account of God leading the Children of Israel out of Egypt, it seems that they complained a lot against God, Moses and Aaron.

† **Exodus 16:2** *Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.*

We wonder how they can complain, especially after they have seen all that the Lord did for them in Egypt, and all the miracles they saw Him do to the Egyptians. Plagues, water turning into blood, locust and other things the Lord did to the Egyptians, including killing their firstborn. I mean if God did some of those miracles today we would believe... or would we?

One thing we seem to forget about what the children of Israel went through in the desert, is that they had it tougher than we tend to think they did. Think about it, they traveled through the desert with no cars with air conditioning or trucks to haul their things, no soft beds to sleep on, no hotels for them to stay in, There were no such things as grocery stores, or fast-food restaurants. No toilets, no refrigerators, no electricity or gas stoves or ovens like we have today. No hot water to bathe in, no aspirin for headaches, no sunscreen to protect their skin from the heat, no Starbucks or Dominoes Pizza, and worse, no In-n-Out. Need I go on?

But if we go without just one or two of these things, we go crazy and wonder “*Why God???*” We have all gone through power outages or even losing water for a time. We have all had refrigerators and stoves stop working. We all have experienced getting a flat tire, being short on cash and not able to pay a bill or bills. Our grass has died in the front yard due to water shortages; we couldn’t take that vacation because we had to work..... Yet still we question why the children of Israel complained.

Isn’t so easy to judge others when you are not walking in their shoes, or you don’t have all the facts? We had a pastor come and speak at our church a few years ago here in TX. And when he was here, he was from another state, so he rented a car, and the car he rented had New York license plates, which is a different state from where he lives. So when he was walking out of his hotel room to his car, someone started to yell at him, telling him to go back home to New York and that he was not wanted here, and they were yelling profanities at him. (One note here, not all of us who live in Texas are like this, this was just a one person doing this and you can’t base all of Texas on one man and how he reacts to those from out of state.)

But the fact was, this man was yelling profanities to a pastor, and the reason he was, not even correct, because the pastor was not from New York, nor did he live in New York. But once again, it's an example of judging someone or others based upon not knowing the truth. Would the man had said such things if he knew that this was a pastor, or that he was not from New York?

So is this an excuse for how much Israel complained while they were in the wilderness? No, not at all. But when you read the bible, it's not right for us to judge why some people didn't fully trust in the Lord and doubted or even complained. Once again it does not give them a right to do so. But you know what, they didn't have the bible to read. Sure those who lived in New Testament times had the Old Testament to read, but still they didn't know what we do, because we have the entire book, the BIBLE, and we have read the end, and we know the final outcome of satan, evil, death sickness, and Jesus ruling and reigning here on the earth, and in heaven. Yet still with all of this knowledge of the bible and how awesome God is, we still complain and grumble.

† **1 Corinthians 10:10-11 (NLT2)** *And don't grumble as some of them did, and then were destroyed by the angel of death. These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age.*