



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE NUMBERS 11:4-6, 10-23 COMPLAINTS ABOUT MANNA— October 3, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

The gift of manna: their food, (their daily bread) would rain down from God every morning. The manna looked like coriander seed but was white. The people would gather it from the ground in the morning and they would grind it and cook it. The prepared manna tasted like bread made with olive oil. Nevertheless, the people grew tired of eating manna.

Chapter 11:1-3 1The Israelite people complained and it displeased the Lord. And the Lord heard it; and His anger was burned; and the fire of the Lord burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. 2And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the Lord, the fire was quenched. 3And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the Lord burnt among them.

LESSON: I. COMPLAINING AGAINST GOD NUMBERS 11:4-6

11:4 And the mixt 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?**— Now there was a mixed company of strangers who had followed the Israelites from Egypt and began to lust greedily for familiar and dainty food. The Israelites also wept saying who shall give us flesh to eat? Be careful who you mix with, because when encountering with unsatisfied people, that same grumbling complaining spirit will rub off on you as it did the Israelites, and will cause displeasure to the Lord. People gravitate to the thing they're not supposed to have, not supposed to do, not supposed to include on their plate, not supposed to inquire about; instead, they're looking at the other small part they don't have, don't need, that won't fit, or God didn't say to have. *"Do not complain, brethren, against one another, that you yourselves may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing right at the door"* (James 5:9, NASB). Gratefulness is an attitude of thanks from the heart.

11:5 **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:**— The Israelites remembered the fish that they ate in Egypt. They remembered the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlicks. They were so set on yesterday, than on what God had already done for them, like freeing them from bondage, being made a nation to bring them into a new land. It's like having a new toy for a couple of days and then wanting another new toy the day afterwards.

11:6 **But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.** Now they're saying that their soul is dried away, meaning their strength is dried up; gone, and day after day they are faced to look at this manna. No other food before their eyes.

NOTE:

It is interesting to note that the first complaints about the manna began with the mixed multitude, that is,

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the Egyptians who traveled with them. This mixed multitude experienced intense cravings for meat. Soon the children of Israel followed their lead and began to crave meat. The children of Israel complained to God that they wanted meat. They actually said, that in Egypt they had fish and meat and cucumbers and melons and leeks and garlic. They complained in a manner that indicated they lived in luxury in Egypt instead of as what they actually were—slaves, being brutally whipped. Had they so quickly forgotten all that God had done for them? Like Freedom? God didn't just move them from Egypt, from oppression, but God moved them to a place of responsibility, from servitude to service.

POINT:

Proof of the prosperity of a country was building monumental buildings like pyramids and tombs. The Egyptians were proud of their ability to organize work. The Israelites had known the city of Ramses, for it was one of the store cities they had built while being slaves.

NOTE:

Complaint	Sin	Result
<i>Their misfortunes.</i>	<i>Complained about their problems.</i>	<i>Thousands of people were destroyed instead of praying to God about them. God sent a plague to punish them.</i>
<i>The lack of meat.</i>	<i>Lusted after things they didn't have.</i>	<i>God sent quail, but as the people began to eat, God struck them with a plague that killed many.</i>

NOT A PART OF THE LESSON VERSES 7-9

11:7-9 The manna was a substance of bread God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness. "**Manna**" means "whatness", or "what is it." It was like bread made with honey. And it appears, the manna did not have much color. The people gathered it from the ground and was pounded into flour, boiled and baked into cakes. When the dew fell, the manna fell.

NOTE:

The Word of God is our gift from God. Like the manna, we must receive it by gathering it, grinding it and cooking it. We gather it by reading it, we grind it by thinking about it, and we cook it by making it part of ourselves. Although God's Word is a gift, we must accept it, ponder it, eat it, and unlike the children of Israel, we must be on guard not to be tempted by the things of the world and grow tired of it.

BACK TO THE LESSON

II. COMPLAINING TO GOD NUMBERS 11:10-15

11:10 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. Moses heard the people from every family. Every man was crying at the door of his own tent. These cries of complaint angered God as well as Moses.

11:11 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? Moses spoke to God in what must have been exhausted frustration. He starts off asking God so many questions, "Why have you brought this trouble upon your servant? Where have I found favor in your sight to deserve this burden of all these people upon me?"

11:12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest

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unto their fathers? *“What have I done to displease you, did I give birth to all of these people? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries a baby, to the Promised Land?”*

11:13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat. *“Where can I get meat for these people?”* Now he tells the Lord that the people were crying and complaining for him to give them meat so they can eat.

11:14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. Moses is still complaining by saying that this burden God placed upon him is too heavy for him!

11:15 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. Moses tells God *“if this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now! If you favor me at all, please put me to death and do not allow me to see my own wretchedness (miserableness, uncleanness)!”*

POINT:

*Moses is upset, asking the Lord, “what is he to do? I can’t handle this! Just kill me NOW!
If I have found favour in Your sight...?”*

When we complain, it may not be the problem itself, but only a symptom of a problem.

III. GOD IS THE SOLUTION NUMBERS 11:16-23

11:16 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. Complaining didn’t sit well with God, so He tells Moses to gather seventy men of the elders of Israel known as the elders of the people, and the officers over the people to the tabernacle of the congregation to stand there with him.

11:17 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. God tells Moses that He will come down and talk with him. And the people God had told Moses to gather and stand with him would receive the same spirit that was in Moses to help bear the burden of the Israelites, for he was not to bear it alone. Every time Moses was in the presence of God, God’s Spirit was upon Moses. Now, God’s going to put Moses’ spirit upon the 70.

11:18 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. Mind you, God is not through with the people that cried, *“Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt.”* God tells Moses to say to these weeping people, *“Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, for you shall eat the flesh.”* Moses had already addressed to the people of God’s power of keeping His promise to supply the food for them, but they didn’t listen. It was like a slap in the face saying, *‘what you had in a place where you were slaves in, you seem to want to go back to.’* However, the plague was sent.

11:19 Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days;—Yes,



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God was sending the meat, but it became a very great “*Plague*” (affliction, curse) (11:33) because the people were not satisfied with what they had when they made that awful statement. The meat would not just come for one, or two, or five, or ten, or even twenty days. It would come continuously until they hated it.

11:20 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?—The meat would be for a whole month, well until they vomit it through their noses because they had despised the Lord who was among them. God Himself was living among them covering and protecting them. And they’re whining before Him saying “*why did they ever leave Egypt?*” You can tell that the Lord was very angry. After all God had just delivered them from the bondage of Egyptian slavery. And He has promised to bring them into the Promised Land. Shouldn’t they have been filled with hope and gratitude?

11:21 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. Now, Moses is apprehensive saying to the Lord that there are among 600,000 men on foot, yet God promised all of them flesh for a whole month. Moses had witnessed God’s power many times, but at this time he’s questioning God’s statement or reminding God of how many people He has to feed (600,000).

11:22 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?— Moses is even thinking of a scenario, or another way God would provide the meat for all, by killing the flocks and the herds, or the fish in the sea to be enough for them.

11:23 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. Moses needs to look back at all the complaints he had given to God, and then wanted God to kill him (11:10-15), because now, it’s in God’s hands alone. He has the solution, for He is the solution. Moses brought the burden to God, now he has to leave it there. God reminds Moses of His power by putting a question to him, while stating a fact — “*Has God’s arm been shortened? You will now see whether or not what I say will come true.*” I love it. But it seems that God has to keep proving Himself to us. Let’s turn our complaints around and **confess His truths. God is the only solution to any complaint!**

SUMMARY:

Now there was a mixed company of strangers who had followed the Israelites from Egypt and began to lust greedily for familiar and dainty food. The Israelites also wept saying “*who shall give us flesh to eat?*” They remembered the fish that they ate in Egypt. They remembered the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlics. Now they’re saying that their soul is dried away, meaning their strength is dried up; gone, and day after day they are faced to look at this manna (11:4-6).





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Moses heard the people from every family. Every man was crying at the door of his own tent. These cries of complaint angered God as well as Moses. Moses starts off asking God so many questions, "Why have you brought this trouble upon your servant? Where have you found favor in your sight to deserve this burden of all these people upon me?" "What have I done to displease you, did I give birth to all of these people? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries a baby, to the Promised Land?" "Where can I get meat for these people?" Now, he tells the Lord that the people were crying and complaining for him to give them meat so they can eat. He complains saying "this burden God placed upon him is too heavy for him! If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now! If you favor me at all, please put me to death and do not allow me to see my own wretchedness (uncleanness, miserableness)!" (11:10-15).

Complaining didn't sit well with God, so He tells Moses to gather seventy men of the elders of Israel known as the elders of the people, and the officers over the people to the tabernacle of the congregation to stand there with him, for God will come down and talk with him. And all the people God had told Moses to gather and stand with him would receive the same spirit that was in Moses to help bear the burden of the people, for he was not to bear it alone. God was going to put Moses' spirit upon the 70. God tells Moses to tell these weeping people, "Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow, for you shall eat the flesh." They had cried for in the ears of the Lord, "**Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt.**" Yes, God was sending the meat, but it became a very great "Plague" (affliction, curse) (11:33) because the people were not satisfied with what they had when they made that awful statement. The meat would not just come for one, or two, or five, or ten, or even twenty days. It would come continuously until they hated it. The meat would be for a whole month, well until they vomit it through their noses because they had despised the Lord who was among them covering and protecting them. And they whined before Him saying "**why did they ever leave Egypt?**" They should have been filled with hope and gratitude? And now, Moses is apprehensive. He's reminding God of how many people He has to feed (600,000). He even thinks of a scenario, or another way God would provide the meat for all, by killing the flocks and the herds, or the fish in the sea to be enough for them. God had to remind Moses that He's got this, by putting a question before him while stating a fact — "**Has God's arm been shortened? You will now see whether or not what I say will come true.**" God is the only solution to any complaint! (11:16-23).

