

During the Exodus journey, the Israelites frequently murmured and complained, driven by fear, hunger, and fatigue. Their grumbling escalated from complaining about harsh conditions to directly challenging God and Moses' leadership, often expressing a desire to return to slavery in Egypt. Their major complaints were:

Ex 14 – Threat at the Red Sea

Trapped by the water and pursued by Pharaoh's army, the people murmured against Moses, terrified and claiming it would have been better to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness. God opens the sea and they march across on dry land and the Egyptians pursuing them are destroyed.

Ex 15 – Bitter waters at Marah

The people complained because the available water was too bitter to drink, leading Moses to cry out to God for a miraculous solution. God provides sweet water for them.

Ex 16 – Starvation in the Wilderness of Sin

Moaning that they were starving, the Israelites complained that Moses and Aaron had brought them out to the desert to die, wishing they were back by the “pot of meat” in Egypt. God responded by providing quail and manna.

Ex 17 – Thirst at Rephidim

Facing another water shortage, the people quarreled with Moses, asking, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?” God provided water.

The punishment starts:

Ex 32 – The people complained about Moses' absence (while he is on the Mt with God) and forsake the Lord by creating a golden calf and altar. The Levites kill 3000 people by the sword because of their worship of the golden calf.

Numbers 11 - Boredom with Manna

Having only manna to eat, the people wept and complained, reminiscing about the fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic they freely ate in Egypt. Moses wants to die & the Lord sends a “very great plague”.

Numbers 12 Miriam & Aaron even complain about Moses' leadership

The Lord's curses Miriam with leprosy for 7 days.

Numbers 14 – The Report of the 12 Spies

After discovering the Promised Land was inhabited by giants, the Israelites openly complained against Moses and Aaron, claiming it would be better to return to Egypt, and attempted to appoint a new leader to take them back. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram led by a faction of 250 Israelite leaders to murmur against Moses and Aaron's authority, saying, “You have gone too far! The whole community is holy... Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?” The Lord kills the 10 spies by the plague instantly. God pronounces all the men 20 years old & older except Joshua and Caleb would die in the wilderness and not enter the Promised Land.

Numbers 16 – 250 Key Leaders Rebel against Moses – Korah's Rebellion

God opens the earth and swallows the offenders – “all the men who belonged to Korah”. The people complain again and accused Moses of killing God's people – 14,700 more people die.

Numbers 20 – Lack of water at Kadesh

During another water crisis, the people quarreled with Moses again, wishing they had died alongside their brethren rather than being brought into this “evil place” with no grain, figs, or water. God provides water but Moses, in his anger, struck the rock instead of speaking to the rock as instructed by the Lord. In so doing, he is not allowed to bring the people into the promised Land (v12)

Numbers 21 – Impatience on the Road

The people became impatient, speaking against God and Moses, complaining about the food and the journey, which provoked God to send a plague of fiery poisonous serpents, and many died. God brings the solution for the fiery serpents – A type of Jesus on the cross.