

Giving Thanks in the Desert

Bondage with Spices or Freedom with Hardships

July 16, 2006

I Thess. 5:18

Romans 8:28

Ephesians 5:20

1. The children of Israel complained every time there was a problem (Exodus)

- **Chapter 14: When they saw that Pharaoh was coming after them**, they panicked and turned against Moses – “Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren’t there enough graves for us in Egypt? Why did you make us leave? ¹² Didn’t we tell you to leave us alone while we were still in Egypt? Our Egyptian slavery was far better than dying out here in the wilderness!”
- **Chapter 16: One month into the journey they complained about food** - ³ “Oh, that we were back in Egypt,” they moaned. “It would have been better if the Lord had killed us there! At least there we had plenty to eat. But now you have brought us into this desert to starve us to death.” **God sent quail in the evenings and manna in the morning**
- **Chapter 17: A second time they complained about no water** - “Why did you ever take us out of Egypt? Why did you bring us here? We, our children, and our livestock will all die!” “Is the Lord going to take care of us or not?”
- **Chapter 32:** When Moses stayed on the mountain too long for them, they want gods made to lead them - “Look,” they said, “make us some gods who can lead us. This man Moses, who brought us here from Egypt, has disappeared. We don’t know what has happened to him.”
- **Number 11:** The people began to complain about their hardships – the Lord burned the outskirts of the camp
- **They started to look back into (lust) Egypt and complained** - “Oh, for some meat!” they exclaimed. ⁵ “We remember all the fish we used to eat for free in Egypt. And we had all the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic that we wanted. ⁶ But now our appetites are gone, and day after day we have nothing to

eat but this manna!” - God sent quails for a month and a plague that killed those that lusted for Egypt – died with the quail still in their mouths

- **Chapter 12** - Miriam and Aaron complain about Moses because of his wife
 - **Chapter 14** – After the spies scout out the land and report back, the people believed the report of the 10 and began to complain - ¹Then all the people began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. ² Their voices rose in a great chorus of complaint against Moses and Aaron. “We wish we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!” they wailed. ³“Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and little ones will be carried off as slaves! Let’s get out of here and return to Egypt!” ⁴ Then they plotted among themselves, “Let’s choose a leader and go back to Egypt!”
 - **The Lord was ready to wipe them out** - but Moses interceded, and God said ²⁰ Then the Lord said, “I will pardon them as you have requested. ²¹ **But** as surely as I live, and as surely as the earth is filled with the Lord’s glory, ²² not one of these people will ever enter that land. They have seen my glorious presence and the miraculous signs I performed both in Egypt and in the wilderness, but again and again they tested me by refusing to listen. ²³ They will never even see the land I swore to give their ancestors. None of those who have treated me with contempt will enter it.
2. **A Lack of Faith** – was the children of Israel’s problem according to what Paul said about them in *Heb 4:2*. They saw the great miracles GOD performed but had not learned to place their faith and confidence in the GOD who had miraculously delivered them. *Heb 4:2* “...but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”
 3. **A thankful heart** – when remembering our blessings leaves no room for complaining.

*** Don’t return to sin for comfort.
It is fleeting but damnation is forever! ***