**Israel Complains**

**Gateway Jewish Ministries**

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**KVETCH - (**kəˈveCH, kfeCH**)** is a yiddish word describing a

person who complains a great deal.

**Numbers 11:1 –** **6**, “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. Then the people cried out to Moses, and

when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched…Now the

mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving;

so, the children of Israel also wept again and said: “Who will give us

meat to eat? “We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt,

the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but

now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!”

Examples of Israel’s complaints:

**Exodus 15** – Bitter water; **Exodus 16** – Hunger - Manna from

Heaven; **Exodus 17:7** – No water, tempted the Lord; **Numbers 12** –

Miriam and Aaron complaints against Moses; **Numbers 14** – Spying

out the land – Israel’s rejection of Canaan; **Numbers 16** – Korah/

levite rebellion; **Num 14:22** – A total of Ten times they put God to

the test.

**Exodus 14:11-12**, “Then they said to Moses, “Because *there were*

no graves in Egypt, have you taken us away to die in the wilderness?

Why have you so dealt with us, to bring us up out of Egypt? *Is* this

not the word that we told you in Egypt, saying, ‘Let us alone that we

may serve the Egyptians’? For *it would have been* better for us to

serve the Egyptians than that we should die in the wilderness.”

**Exodus 16:2-3**, “Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And the children of Israel said to them, “Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat *and* when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

**Numbers 11:5-6**, “We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; “but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!”

**Psalm 78:23 – 25**, “Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven, Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven. Men ate angels’ food; He sent them food to the full.”

**Deuteronomy 6:10-11**,“So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build, “houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant..”

This was a land that represented freedom, wealth, and provision! It was their inheritance!

**1. *Slavistic Mentality***

**Numbers 11:6**, “We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt…”

**2. *Victim Mentality***

**Numbers 11:6**, “but now our whole being *is* dried up”

**Root Cause:**

**Hebrews 3:19**, “So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.”

**Complaining is the result of unbelief**.

**Num 14:31,** “But your little ones, whom you said would be victims, I will bring in, and they shall know the land which you have despised.”

**Numbers 11:20, “**…you have despised the Lord and wept before Him saying “Why did we ever come up out of Egypt?”

Despise: **בָּזָה (Ba-za)** - hold in contempt, hold as insignificant, disdain, worthless.

**Hebrews 12:16** Esau sold his birthright for a morsel of food. (Genesis 25)

**Isaiah 43:18, 19,** “Remember not the former things, nor consider (give heed to) the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

**Matthew 10:39,** “Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”

Can we limit God?

Psalm 78:41 – “Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and **LIMITED** the Holy One of Israel.”

**תָּוָה – (**Ta-va)– grieve, cause pain – set limits.

**Four keys in possessing your land:**

**1. Guard you heart!**

**Proverbs 4:23** - Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues (source) of life.

**Psalm 139:23-24**, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.”

**2. Do not fear!**

Hebrews 11:6, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

Joshua 1: God said three times, “Do not fear, be strong and courageous” then He said, “do not be afraid.”

**2 Timothy 1:7**, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

**Numbers 14:24** – “But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.”

**Numbers 13:30** “let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.”

**Numbers 13:31-33**, “…“We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.”…. “The land through which we have gone as spies *is* a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it *are* men of *great* stature. There we saw the giants….and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.”

Joshua and Caleb had a different spirit. They saw with a different lens as they trusted in God!

Grasshoppers vs. Overcomers

**3. Trust God!**

**Numbers 14:8-9**, “If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, ‘a land which flows with milk and honey.’ Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us. Do not fear them.”

We can do all things through Christ which strengthens us! (Phil 4:13)

**4. Willingness to embrace the new thing!**

**Isaiah 1:19**, “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land.”

Sometimes you have to remove the old to make room for the new things!

**Luke 5:39**, “And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'"

**Philippians 2:14-15**, “Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

**1 Corinthians 10:9-11**, “We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, (complain) as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.”

**Joshua 1:9**, “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."