

NUMBERS 11:1-3 2025 “THE PEOPLE COMPLAIN AT TABERAH”

9/27/25 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - <https://www.ptwente.com> ptwente@gmail.com 714 425-9221

NUMBERS 11:1-3 “Now when the people complained, I 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. [2] Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched. [3] So he called the name of the place Taberah (burning), because the fire of the LORD had burned among them.”

The Biblical Setting:

The nation has just completed its first journey (three days), being led by the cloud and by fire. They have gone an estimated 8 miles. They **begin to complain**. During the wilderness march, the **people often complained against Moses and against the LORD** (Four times in Exodus, seven times in Numbers, once in Deuteronomy and once in Joshua): *Exo 15:24* – Bitter waters at Marah; *Exo 16:2, 7* – At the Wilderness of Sin, between Elim and Sinai, the people complained to Moses & Aaron about having no meat! God sent quail and began sending manna; *Exo 17:3* – At Rephidim, no water, then Moses struck the Rock! Here we have the first recorded complaining in Numbers.

NUMBERS 11:1-3 “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.

- Here is the people's sin; they **complained**. See the sinfulness of sin, which provokes the LORD. The weakness of the law discovered sin, but could not destroy it; It checked the sin, but could not conquer it. They complained. Those **who are of a discontented spirit will always find something to quarrel or fret about, though the circumstances of their outward condition be ever so favorable.**
- The LORD heard it, though Moses did not. **God knows the secret fretting and murmurings of the heart, though concealed from men.** What He noticed, He was much displeased with, and He chastised them for this sin.
- A murmuring, complaining spirit is always displeasing to Him, when a thankful heart for mercies received is an acceptable sacrifice; murmurers and complainers God will judge at the great day, *Jude 1:14-15.*
- **The fire of their wrath against God burned** in their minds; justly did the fire of God's wrath fasten on their bodies; but God's judgments came on them gradually, that they might take warning. **It appeared that God does not delight in punishing;** when He begins, He is soon called upon to stop the punishing! **Our complaining or murmuring, which are always contagious, displease the LORD.**



- **There is an element in complaining to the *LORD* where we are really complaining about Him, that He is not able or willing to do what's best for me! **That is displeasing to Him!****

[2] Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched.

- **The people cried out to Moses, who was their tried intercessor.** When we complain without cause, it is just with God to give us cause to complain. Those that slight God's friends when they are in prosperity would be glad to make them their friends when they are in distress. Father Abraham, send Lazarus.
- **The frequent prevailing of Moses's intercession** for them: When Moses prayed unto the *LORD* (he was always ready to stand in the gap to turn away the wrath of God) **God had respect to him and his offering, and the fire was quenched. Num 21:7** - (poisonous serpents) Therefore **the people came to Moses**, and said, **"We have sinned**, for we have spoken against the *LORD* and against you; **pray to the LORD** that He take away the serpents from us." **So Moses prayed for the people.**
- **By this it appears that God does not delight in punishing**, for when He has begun His controversy, He is soon prevailed upon to stop the punishing. Moses was one of those faithful saints, who by faith quenched the violence of fire.

[3] So he called the name of the place Taberah (burning), because the fire of the LORD had burned among them."

- A new name given hereupon to the place, **to perpetuate the shame of a murmuring people** and the **honor of a righteous God**; the place was called Taberah, a burning, that others might hear, and fear, and take warning not to sin as they did, lest they should smart as they did, *1Cor.10:10*. **nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.**
- **Believingly expected, by all the LORD's people. This prayer is a prophecy. Those that persist in rebellion against God are hasting towards their own destruction.**

SUMMARY:

- **Our complaining or murmuring, which are always contagious, displease the *LORD*.**
- **There is an element in complaining to the *LORD* where we are really complaining about Him, that He is not able or willing to do what's best for me! That is displeasing to Him!**
- **We should not be pulled into complaining and murmuring, audibly, or in our minds, the *LORD* knows!**
- **The *LORD*'s anger was aroused and He sent fire to chastise the people.**
- **They cried out to Moses to intercede for them.**
- **He prayed to the *LORD*! The fire was extinguished! Another instance of God's mercy and grace!!**
- **How thankful and grateful are we for all that the *LORD* has done for us?**

Pray Today For: We thank the *LORD* for His protection at the Charlie Kirk Memorial service! That the Gospel message went forth to a thousand, thousand, ten thousands! For a continuing great worldwide harvest! For continuing protection and security of all believers! For a great revival in the Church! For many to come to Jesus!

(Num 11:20) Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the LORD, the fire was quenched!

HEAR MY CRY (Lead Me To The Rock) (Psalm 61:1-2) Maranatha Music (3:41)

*Hear my cry Oh Lord. Attend unto my prayer. From the ends of the earth,
Will I cry out to Thee. And when my heart is overwhelmed, Please lead me to the Rock,
That is higher than I... That is higher than I...
For Thou hast been, A shelter unto me. And a strong tower, From the enemy.
And when my heart is overwhelmed, Please lead me to the Rock, That is higher than I...
That is higher than I...
Hear my cry Oh Lord. Attend unto my prayer. From the ends of the earth,
Will I cry out to Thee. And when my heart is overwhelmed, Please lead me to the Rock,
That is higher than I... That is higher than I...
And when my heart is overwhelmed, Please lead me to the Rock,
That is higher than I... That is higher than I...*