

# Let the Journey Begin

## a study in the book of Exodus

### Leanness of Soul – Exodus 16 and Numbers 11

#### Lesson 16

The events of these passages demonstrate further steps in building the faith of Israel. There were no resources in the Sinai wilderness to feed several million people, let alone their herds and flocks. God had provided water; He would now provide food. God's provision should have provoked an appreciation of His daily care. Yet, we will discover, it was not enough, provoking them to long for Egypt and complain to the point of weeping.

#### Read Exodus 16

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed and marked key words, along with the pronouns that refer to them. It may be helpful to highlight over the markings, so they are more visible.

Key Words and markings: LORD, *the children of Israel*, **MOSES/AARON**

3. List a few things the verses reveal about:

the LORD

the children of Israel

Moses/Aaron

## Read Exodus 16:1-8

1. Journeying from Elim, where the children of Israel experienced a time of refreshing, they traveled to the Wilderness of Sin. They again *complained against Moses and Aaron*. According to verse 3, what was their complaint?
  - a. Reflect upon the words of Psalm 78:17-19. What does this add to your understanding of Israel's *complaining*?
  
2. According to Exodus 16:4, what did the LORD say He would do?
  - a. What was His reasoning?
    - 1.) God often *tests* His people to reveal the condition of our faith. God provided *bread from heaven* for them. He also included instructions as to how the *bread* was to be collected. Their obedience to His instructions reflected their faith. What is the correlation between obedience and faith?
  
3. Using Exodus 16:6,7, record what the children would:  
*know in the evening*  
  
*see in the morning*
  - a. According to verse 8, what would the LORD do?
  
  - b. What did Moses say about their *complaints*?
    - 1.) What are we saying to God when we *complain*?
  
    - 2.) In spite of their *complaints*, what does Psalm 78:23-25 tell us God did for them?

**Exodus 16:9-19** reviews God's response and His instructions. They were to gather the manna daily, according to each person's need. *He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.* On the sixth day, they were to gather twice as much so as to not gather manna on the Sabbath. (verse 5)

**Read Exodus 16:20,24,35**

1. Disregarding God's instructions, what are we told about the children of Israel in verse 20?
  - a. *Moses was angry with them.* Why is it important to obey the LORD even in times when it doesn't make sense or does not seem like that big of a deal?
  
2. Exodus 16:24 reflects their obedience. What was the result in contrast to their disobedience in verse 20?

**Exodus 16:25-34** recounts the importance of resting on the Sabbath (the seventh day). God did not provide manna on that day, giving them manna for two days on the day prior. *So the people rested on the seventh day* (verse 30). God also commanded Aaron to take some of the manna and *keep it for your generations as a Testimony* (verses 33, 34).

3. Record the words of Exodus 16:35.

- a. What are your thoughts?

**Read Numbers 11:4-6**

1. The people were tiring of the daily manna. The *mixed multitude* (those who left with the children of Israel who were not Israeli, *yielded to intense craving*). Describe the phrase, *yielded to intense craving*.
  - a. Write the following verses in your own words:  
Romans 13:14  
  
1 Corinthians 10:6

2. Read their complaint in Numbers 11:5,6. What might you determine about their priorities and memory?

**Numbers 11:7-9** describes the manna. Exodus 16:31 describes it like white coriander seed and tasting like wafers made with honey. Numbers describes it as tasting like pastry prepared with oil. They cooked it in pans and made cakes out of it. Every night it would fall from heaven onto the dew and they would collect it early in the morning, before the sun melted it.

### **Read Numbers 11:10-13**

1. These verses begin with the *people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent*. They had complained to the point of provoking tears. Let us remember that God had been daily providing for them. Yet, they had lost focus. Consider a time in your life that you experienced this. How did you allow yourself to get to that point?

- a. What have you learned about allowing discouragement and disappointments to escalate?

2. Moses took their *complaints* to the LORD. He too had lost focus. What did he pray?

- a. Notice Moses' questions to the LORD in verse 12. What does Isaiah 40:11 promise the LORD will do?

- b. Reflect upon 1 Thessalonians 2:7, the description of Paul's care for the believers in Thessalonica. What does it say?

- 1.) In what ways does this challenge you to care for others?

**Numbers 11:14-17** Moses was overwhelmed and said to the LORD, *I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me.* The LORD had Moses gather 70 elders and told Moses, *I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.*

### Read Numbers 11:18-23

1. God would grant their request, but the meat they desired would *become loathsome to them.* Using verses 18-20a, summarize what Moses was to *say to the people.*

2. *You have despised the LORD who is among you.* The word *despised* could be translated as *loathed.* They had loathed the LORD. The result would be that they would loathe what they thought they wanted. In what ways can rejecting the LORD lead to seeking things that do not satisfy?

3. After the LORD revealed His plan to Moses, Moses again spoke to the LORD (verses 21,22). Summarize Moses' doubts of the LORD's plan to feed all of the people.

4. Numbers 11:23 is the LORD's response to Moses. Moses asked several questions. The LORD asked one – *Has the LORD's arm been shortened?* Record the reassuring words of:

Isaiah 50:2

Isaiah 59:1

a. Write a few words of gratitude for these glorious truths.



## Observation Worksheet

Exodus 16:1-4, 20,24,35 And *they* journeyed from Elim, and *all the congregation of the children of Israel* came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after *they* departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup> Then the *whole congregation of the children of Israel* complained against **MOSES** and **AARON** in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> 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." <sup>4</sup> Then the LORD said to **MOSES**, "Behold, **I** will rain bread from heaven for *you*. And the *people* shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that **I** may test *them*, whether *they* will walk in My law or not. <sup>5</sup> And it shall be on the sixth day that *they* shall prepare what *they* bring in, and it shall be twice as much as *they* gather daily." <sup>6</sup> Then **MOSES** and **AARON** said to *all the children of Israel*, "At evening *you* shall know that the LORD has brought *you* out of the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup> And in the morning *you* shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are **WE**, that *you* complain against **US**?" <sup>8</sup> Also **MOSES** said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives *you* meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears *your* complaints which *you* make against Him. And what are **WE**? *Your* complaints are not against **US** but against the LORD."

<sup>20</sup> Notwithstanding *they* did not heed Moses. But *some of them* left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And **MOSES** was angry with *them*.

<sup>24</sup> So *they* laid it up till morning, as **MOSES** commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.

<sup>35</sup> And the *children of Israel* ate manna forty years, until *they* came to an inhabited land; *they* ate manna until *they* came to the border of the land of Canaan.

**Numbers 11:4-6** 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? <sup>5</sup> *We* remember the fish which *we* ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup> but now *our* whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before *our* eyes!"

<sup>10</sup> Then **MOSES** heard the *people* weeping throughout *their families, everyone* at the door of *his* tent; and the anger of the **LORD** was greatly aroused; **MOSES** also was displeased.

<sup>11</sup> So **MOSES** said to the **LORD**, "Why have *You* afflicted *Your* **SERVANT**? And why have I not found favor in *Your* sight, that *You* have laid the burden of all these *people* on *ME*? <sup>12</sup> Did I conceive all *these* *people*? Did I beget *them*, that *You* should say to me, 'Carry *them* in **YOUR** bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,' to the land which *You* swore to *their* fathers? <sup>13</sup> Where am I to get meat to give to *all these people*? For *they* weep all over **ME**, saying, 'Give *us* meat, that *we* may eat.'

<sup>18</sup> Then **YOU** shall say to *the people*, 'Consecrate *yourselves* for tomorrow, and *you* shall eat meat; for *you* have wept in the hearing of the **LORD**, saying, "Who will give *us* meat to eat? For it was well with *us* in Egypt." Therefore the **LORD** will give *you* meat, and *you* shall eat.

<sup>19</sup> *You* shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, <sup>20</sup> but for a whole month, until it comes out of *your* nostrils and becomes loathsome to *you*, because *you* have despised the **LORD** who is among *you*, and have wept before **HIM**, saying, "Why did *we* ever come up out of Egypt?" " <sup>21</sup> And **MOSES** said, "The *people* whom I am among are *six hundred thousand men on foot*, yet *You* have said, '**I** will give *them* meat, that *they* may eat for a whole month.' <sup>22</sup> Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for *them*, to provide enough for *them*? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for *them*, to provide enough for *them*?" <sup>23</sup> And the **LORD** said to **MOSES**, "Has the **LORD**'s arm been shortened? Now **YOU** shall see whether what **I** say will happen to **YOU** or not."

<sup>31</sup> Now a wind went out from the **LORD**, and it brought quail from the sea and left them fluttering near the camp, about a day's journey on this side and about a day's journey on the other side, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the ground. <sup>32</sup> And the *people* stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day, and gathered the quail (*he* who gathered least gathered ten homers); and they spread *them* out for *themselves* all around the camp. <sup>33</sup> But while the meat was still between *their* teeth, before it was chewed, the wrath of the **LORD** was aroused against *the people*, and the **LORD** struck *the people* with a very great plague.