



Way Point Chronicles

Traveling through the Old Testament by Chronological Stories

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until the morning. 16 So it was always: the cloud covered it by day, and the appearance of fire by night. 17 And when the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, then after that the children of Israel journeyed: and in the place where the cloud abode, there the children of Israel pitched their tents. 18 At the commandment of the LORD the children of Israel journeyed, and at the commandment of the LORD they pitched: as long as the cloud abode upon the tabernacle they rested in their tents. 19 And when the cloud tarried long upon the tabernacle many days, then the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD, and journeyed not. 20 And so it was, when the cloud was a few days upon the tabernacle; according to the commandment of the LORD they abode in their tents, and according to the commandment of the LORD they journeyed. 21 And so it was, when the cloud abode from even unto the morning, and that the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they journeyed: whether it was by day or by night that the cloud was taken up, they journeyed. 22 Or whether it were two days, or a month, or a year, that the cloud tarried upon the tabernacle, remaining thereon, the children of Israel abode in their tents, and journeyed not: but when it was taken up, they journeyed. 23 At the commandment of the LORD they rested in the tents, and at the commandment of the LORD they journeyed: they kept the charge of the LORD, at the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

The God of the universe was allowing them time to learn the law that He had given Moses on Sinai. They were also learning to trust Him more for their provision.

So, they leave Sinai, the place that had been a great place of revelation as well as fear for them. *Numbers 10:33-36* And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days' journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them. 34 And the cloud of the LORD was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. 35 And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. 36 And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.

They had a visual reminder of God's presence with them in the cloud. This was a constant reminder of His deliverance.



Coordinates:

Numbers 9:15-11:34

Sights to See:

- 1- God is a God of order and this cries out that He is Creator throughout His creation.
- 2- God was their guide by a visual presence. He is our Guide by His Word and the Holy Spirit. By the way the Holy Spirit will never lead us to do anything that contradicts His Word and the Word will never be in conflict with the Spirit of God.
- 3- God has many lessons that we need to learn for our spiritual maturity.
- 4- Murmuring seems to be a natural inclination of mankind and therefore we must recognize this tendency and guard against it.
- 5- God is never please with negative attitudes that constantly seek to destroy and not build up.
- 6- We must be careful to surround ourselves with people who are builders and not destroyers.
- 7- Sometimes we do not know just how good we have it until we see how bad it can be. Let us learn to count our blessing each day.

III- The Murmuring People:



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It was not very long as they journeyed that they began to murmur. They became discontented with everything about their circumstances. ***Numbers 11:1-3 And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. 2 And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched. 3 And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.***

Notice a few things in this passage. First, it displeases the Lord when they began to murmur and complain. May I say I do not think God has changed His mind about this type of behavior. Notice a strong word from ***Proverbs 6:16-19 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.***

Notice also, how serious this was with God. He killed those on the outer fringes of the camp. This caused the people to cry out, Moses interceded, and God stopped the fire.

IV- Be Careful Whom You Listen To:

A few moments ago I pointed out that a mixed multitude came of Egypt with the Israelites. ***Numbers 11:4 And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting***

Matthew Henry said about these:

The rabble that came with them out of Egypt, expecting only the land of promise, but not a state of probation in the way to it. They were hangers on, who took hold of the skirts of the Jews, and would go with them only because they knew not how to live at home, and were disposed to seek their fortunes (as we say) abroad. These were the scabbed sheep that infected the flock, the leaven that leavened the whole lump. Note, A few factious, discontented, ill-natured people, may do a great deal of mischief in the best societies, if great care be not taken to discountenance them.

Notice what this led to in the camp of Israel. ***Numbers 11:4 ...and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? 5 We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: 6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes. ...***

The influence of these discontents infected the children of Israel. We must also be very careful who we allow to influence our opinions about issues.

Numbers 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. Again the anger of the Lord was kindled with this murmuring.

Moses has had enough. He had heard the murmuring and complaining and wanted to quit. ***Numbers 11:11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? 12 Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? 13 Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat. 14 I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy***



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for me. 15 And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness.

Moses was at the point of being willing to die if it would get him out of this duty that God had laid upon his life and heart.

Recorded in *Numbers 11:16ff* is instructions for Moses to gather seventy men to help him with the job. God also tells Moses to tell the people that they would have flesh to eat the next day.

V- Plague of Quails:

Remember the title of this Way Point is *You Never Know How Good You Have It*. The children of Israel did not have to work for their food. God was providing everything they needed supernaturally for them. They had it made but did not know how good they had it.

Numbers 11:31-34 And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. 32 And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp.

The manna had come day by day now for about 13 months. The quail came on the wind and they gathered way to much for their day to day needs. They did not trust God. They had not learned the lesson of God's provision.

I wonder if we have learned to trust God and praise Him for His provision. Remember what the words of Matthew 6 says. *Matthew 6:24-34 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. 25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? 26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? 27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: 29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? 31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

The quails, they thought would be a blessing, turned out to be a curse. Notice *Numbers 11:33 And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. 34 And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted.*

We need to learn to count our blessing and we will be surprised at how blessed we are.