

# Lessons from the Deserts of life. Part 2

*(1 Cor. 10:10,11) "Neither murmur ye, as some of them murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition"*

## *Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>*

*Mt 7:15 "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it..."*

The gate to God is "strait" (stenos: cluttered) and the path from there is "narrow"!

Thli'bō: trouble 4, afflict 3, narrow 1, throng 1, suffer tribulation 1 (*Jn 16:33; Acts 14:22; 1 Th. 3:4*)

**Desert experiences are part of God's plan to reveal and/or develop our faith.**

- God is seeking to grow and guide us so that we can experience the delight of His blessings and purposes. (Jer. 29:11; Rev. 4:11; Eccl. 3:1-11) See also Ro. 8:22,28,29
- Satan takes advantage of the difficult "desert" seasons and *"as a roaring lion"* (1 Pt. 5:8) or *"deceptive serpent"* (2 Cor. 11:3) seeks to seduce or sidetrack us from God's plan. *This is the essence of sin (harmartano) which means to miss the mark and so not share in the prize.*
- During "desert" seasons he takes advantage of our selfish natures to influence us to react or rebel against God's Guidance. *This rebellious attitude usually leaks out of our lips in the form of murmuring and / or complaining.*

### **Review Part 1:**

**Complaining is both Contagious! (Num.11:4,5) and Corrupting (Vs. 5-15)**

- 1) It *Blinds* us! (To God's goodness and Satan's goals) Nu. 11:5,6
- 2) It *Binds* us! (To Satan through bitterness) Eph. 4:26 "neither give place to the devil"
- 3) It *Begrudges* God's blessings. (vs 7,8,10)
- 4) It *Burdens* others! (Moses actually questions his calling.) Nu. 11:10-15
- 5) It *Blames* God! (Vs 11)

**The People are Hungry for meat and Moses is overwhelmed by Responsibility!**

**God responds to this crisis of complaining by Providing...**

## **1. Men (Partners) to Assist Moses. Nu. 11:16,17,24-30**

**A. Moses selected them.** Vs 16 *"Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders ,,,; and bring them unto the tabernacle, that they may stand with thee."*

- 1) Were these the same 70 Elders from Ex. 24? If so, where had they been during the Crisis?

**B. God sanctified them.** Vs 17 *"...I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone."*

- 1) Whose Spirit was this? (Ex. 3:12; 33:14)

## **2. Meat for the People. Nu. 11:18-23; 31-34** *"Sanctify yourselves to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: 19 Ye shall not eat one...two...five...ten...nor twenty days; 20 But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?"*

**A. Moses Doubted.** Vs 21,22 *"Shall the flocks be slain for them, to suffice them? or all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them?"*

- 1) He still obeyed in spite of his doubt! Vs 23,24

**B. God Delivered** (in spite of the doubts) Vs. 31-32

**C. The people Desired (lusted) Vs 32** *“he that gathered least gathered ten homers:”*  
(That’s about 60 bushels each!)

**D. God Disciplined them. 33,34 (Gal. 6:6,76**

1) He previously warned (vs 20) they’d eat it *“until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because ye have despised the LORD which is among you”*

## Conclusion:

1) **The Lord took Israel out of Egypt in one night, but it took Him forty years to take Egypt out of Israel.** **Philippians 2:13-14** *“it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings... that ye may be the sons of God.”*

2) **Our reactions (choices) in the desert reveal the condition of our heart! Deut. 8:2**  
*“thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee ... in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know (yada: understand, reveal) what was in thine heart, whether thou would keep his commandments, or no.”*

3) **God often judges us by letting us have our own way! Ps 106:13-15** *“They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.”*

**This is still happening! (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28; Gal. 6:6,7).**

4) **Desert experiences reveal if we’ll:**

a) **Resist God or Satan: James 4:6-8** *“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” (Both God and Satan have plans for us! Jn 10:10)*

**The heart of resisting God is rebellion! Either Active {“I won’t”} or passive {“I don’t”}**

1 Sam. 15:23 *“rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft”* (merî: rebellion comes from marah: bitterness!)  
*... and stubbornness* (pāšar’: to urge, press, peck at) *is as iniquity* (’āwen: exert oneself for nothing; vanity) *and idolatry”* (terāpîm’: seek help/healing from Satan)

**This give Satan the opportunity to draw us back to him. (Eph. 4:26)**

b) **Repent (metanoë’ō) to reconsider**

(1) This involves Recognizing what’s at really at stake.

(2) This enables us to recover from the snares and strategy (purposes) of Satan. 2 Tim. 2:25-26

c) **Recommit ourselves to God; Allowing Him to guide and grow us, Ro. 12:1,2**

## Application:

1) **Are you resisting Satan’s plans, or God’s?**

2) **Do you need to Repent? (Recognize what’s really at stake and Reconsider your choices.)**

3) **Are you willing to Recommit to God so He can Guide and Grow you, preparing you for “The Promised Land”?** (Ro. 8:28)

**Ps 138:7-8** *“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: ... and thy right hand shall save me. The LORD will perfect (gāmar’: complete) that which concerneth me!”*

**Will you cooperate with Him? (Mt. 11:28,29)**