

NUM. 11:1-3 “THE PEOPLE COMPLAIN AT TABERAH”

10/28/201 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

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. [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, because the fire of the LORD had burned among them.”

“AT YOUR NAME (YAHWEH, YAHWEH)”- Phil Wickham

At Your name the mountains shake and crumble. At Your name the oceans roar and tumble

At Your name Angels will bow. The earth will rejoice/ Your people cry out

[Chorus:] - Lord of all the earth, we shout Your name, shout Your name; Filling up the skies With endless praise, endless praise. Yahweh, Yahweh/ We love to shout Your name, oh Lord

At Your name the morning breaks in Glory. At Your name Creation sings Your story

At Your name angels will bow. The earth will rejoice/ Your people cry out - [Chorus]

There is no one like our God. We will praise you, praise you There is no one like our God. We will sing, we will sing [x3] [Chorus x2]

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, **Jud 1:14.**
- 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 prevailed with to let it stop. **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 delights not in punishing**, for, when He has begun His controversy, He is soon prevailed with to let it fall. Moses was one of those worthies who by faith quenched the violence of fire.

[3] So he called the name of the place Taberah, 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, cf. **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 hastening towards their own destruction.** For the scattering and defeating of God's enemies, there needs no more but God's arising.
- *"Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered (break; dash to pieces)";* Here is Moses' prayer whenever the ark set forward. They were now in a desolate country, but they were marching towards an enemy's country, and their dependence was upon God for success and victory in their wars, as well as for direction and supply in the wilderness.
- David used this prayer. He also fought the LORD'S battles! (*Psa. 68:1,2*), *"Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him. [2] As smoke is driven away, So drive them away; As wax melts before the fire, So let the wicked perish at the presence of God."*

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 need to be aware not to be pulled into complaining and murmuring**
- **Whether we complain audibly, or just do it 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: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. General James Kelly. The Cabinet and all advisors. Appointee - Christopher Wray, F.B.I.

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