



DENIA

COMMUNITY CHURCH

March of Folly Numbers 11-12

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Israel Leaves Sinai | Numbers 10:11–13

¹¹ Now in the second year, in the second month, on the twentieth of the month, the cloud was lifted from over the tabernacle of the testimony; ¹² and the sons of Israel set out on their journeys from the wilderness of Sinai. Then the cloud settled down in the wilderness of Paran. ¹³ So they moved out for the first time according to the commandment of the LORD through Moses.

Israel Leaves Sinai | Numbers 10:33–34

³³ Thus they set out from the mount of the LORD three days' journey, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD journeying in front of them for the three days, to seek out a resting place for them. ³⁴ The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp.

Israel Complains of Adversity | Numbers 11:1–3

¹ Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD;

Israel Complains of Adversity | Numbers 11:1–3

¹ Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. ² The people therefore cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD and the fire died out. ³ So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the LORD burned among them.

Israel's Greedy Desires | Numbers 11:4-6

⁴ The rabble who were among them had greedy desires; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, "Who will give us meat to eat? ⁵ We remember the fish which we used to eat free in Egypt, the cucumbers and the melons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic, ⁶ but now our appetite is gone. There is nothing at all to look at except this manna."

God's Blessing of Manna | Numbers 11:7-9

⁷ Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium. ⁸ The people would go about and gather it and grind it between two millstones or beat it in the mortar, and boil it in the pot and make cakes with it; and its taste was as the taste of cakes baked with oil. ⁹ When the dew fell on the camp at night, the manna would fall with it.

Moses' Complaints | Numbers 11:11-15

¹¹ “Why have You been so hard on Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all this people on me? ¹² Was it I who conceived all this people? Was it I who brought them forth, that You should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom as a nurse carries a nursing infant, to the land which You swore to their fathers’? ¹³ Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me, saying, ‘Give us meat that we may eat!’ ¹⁴ I alone am not able to carry all this people, because it is too burdensome for me. ¹⁵ So if You are going to deal thus with me, please kill me at once, if I have found favor in Your sight, and do not let me see my wretchedness.”

God Responds to Moses' Complaints | Numbers 11:16–17

¹⁶ The LORD therefore said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy men from the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and their officers and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you.

¹⁷ Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit who is upon you, and will put Him upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear it all alone.

God Responds to Moses' Complaints | Numbers 11:24–25

²⁴ So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. Also, he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people, and stationed them around the tent. ²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him; and He took of the Spirit who was upon him and placed Him upon the seventy elders. And when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do it again.

God Responds to Moses' Complaints | Numbers 11:26–30

²⁶ But two men had remained in the camp; the name of one was Eldad and the name of the other Medad. And the Spirit rested upon them (now they were among those who had been registered, but had not gone out to the tent), and they prophesied in the camp.

²⁷ So a young man ran and told Moses and said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸ Then Joshua the son of Nun, the attendant of Moses from his youth, said, "Moses, my lord, restrain them." ²⁹ But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD'S people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit upon them!" ³⁰ Then Moses returned to the camp, both he and the elders of Israel.

“The Graves of Greediness” | Numbers 11:33–34

³³ While the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very severe plague. ³⁴ So the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had been greedy.

God's Judgment on Israel's Complaints | Numbers 11:19–20

¹⁹ You shall eat, not one day, nor two days, nor five days, nor ten days, nor twenty days, ²⁰ but a whole month, until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you; because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?”

Miriam and Aaron Confront Moses | Numbers 12

¹ Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman); ² and they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?" And the LORD heard it. ³ (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)

Miriam and Aaron Confront Moses | Numbers 12

⁴ Suddenly the LORD said to Moses and Aaron and to Miriam, "You three come out to the tent of meeting." So the three of them came out. ⁵ Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam.

Miriam and Aaron Confront Moses | Numbers 12

When they had both come forward, ⁶ He said, "Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision. I shall speak with him in a dream. ⁷ "Not so, with My servant Moses, He is faithful in all My household; ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, Even openly, and not in dark sayings, And he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid To speak against My servant, against Moses?"

Miriam and Aaron Confront Moses | Numbers 12

⁹ So the anger of the LORD burned against them and He departed. ¹⁰ But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous. ¹¹ Then Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not account this sin to us, in which we have acted foolishly and in which we have sinned. ¹² Oh, do not let her be like one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes from his mother's womb!"

Miriam and Aaron Confront Moses | Numbers 12

¹³ Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, “O God, heal her, I pray!”

¹⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut up for seven days outside the camp, and afterward she may be received again.” ¹⁵ So Miriam was shut up outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again.

From Sinai to Hazeroth | Numbers 12

16 Afterward, however, the people moved out from Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.



Four Lessons from Israel's Initial Journeys | Numbers 11-12

- 1. God's people must be content with God's plans and path and not complain because of adversities.**
- 2. God's people must be grateful for God's provision and must not greedily demand more or different than what He gives us.**
- 3. God's people must respect God's authorities, primarily His word and secondarily those He places in authority over us.**
- 4. God's people should look to God for help when our burdens become too burdensome.**

How to Apply the Four Lessons from Numbers 11-12

1. Recall what God has done for us before.
2. Focus on what God is doing for us now.
3. Hope in what God has promised to do for us in the future and remember that we are not home yet—we're headed homeward.
4. Consider the commitments we voluntarily made to follow God.
5. Know that God uses adversities, unmet desires, and authorities to sanctify us—to increase our faith, strengthen our hope, and deepen our love.
6. Remember that God knows and cares about all we think, say, and do, and will discipline or reward us accordingly.
7. Remember that God is good and great and is sovereignly acting to accomplish His will and establish His kingdom for His glory—not ours.



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