

Exodus 15:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

Analysis

Israel's response to disappointment: 'the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?' The verb 'murmured' (לִנְדַּב, *lindaḇ*) indicates grumbling, complaining—not merely expressing need but accusatory discontent. Directing complaint toward Moses (visible leader) rather than God (invisible provider) shows how quickly gratitude evaporates under pressure. Three days ago they sang God's praises; now they grumble at first difficulty. This pattern of murmuring recurs throughout wilderness wanderings.

Historical Context

This begins Israel's pattern of wilderness grumbling (Exodus 16:2, 17:3, Numbers 14:2, 16:11). Each crisis produces complaint rather than prayer, revealing unbelief. This pattern provokes God's discipline and delays Canaan entry.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How quickly does your worship turn to complaint when circumstances disappoint expectations?
2. What does directing complaints toward visible leaders rather than seeking invisible God reveal about faith's weakness?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּלֹּן	וְהָעָם	עַל	מֹשֶׁה	לְאֹהֲרָם	יָמָה
murmured	And the people	H5921	against Moses	saying	H4100
H3885	H5971		H4872	H559	
נִשְׁתָּה:					
What shall we drink					
H8354					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 16:2 (References Moses): And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

Exodus 14:11 (References Moses): And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

Numbers 21:5 (References Moses): And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

Jude 1:16 (Parallel theme): These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.

Philippians 2:14 (Parallel theme): Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

