

# Exodus 15:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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Israel's response to disappointment: 'the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?' The verb 'murmured' (לֹעַן, *lū'ān*) 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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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מִלְאָמָר מִשְׁאַל בְּעֵד עַל מֹשֶׁה כָּאֵם מָה  
murmured And the people against Moses saying what H4100  
H3885 H5971 H4872 H559

בְּשַׁתְּתָה:

What shall we drink

H8354

## Additional Cross-References

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**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:

