

# Exodus 17:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

## Analysis

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**And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses**—Physical thirst produces spiritual complaint. The verb 'murmured' (מִלֵּן, *lun*) appears again (cf. Ex 16:2), showing Israel's default response to hardship. Their accusation that Moses brought them from Egypt 'to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst' reveals staggering unbelief: they interpret every trial as murderous intent. This projecting of evil motives onto God's servants (and thereby onto God) demonstrates how unbelief breeds paranoia. The thirst is real, but the interpretation—that God/Moses intends their death—is blasphemous. Christ also faced false accusations that He worked by Beelzebub (Matt 12:24), showing that unbelief interprets divine works as demonic.

## Historical Context

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The Sinai wilderness is extremely arid. Without supernatural provision, no large group could survive. Israel's thirst was genuine crisis, making their need legitimate but their response faithless.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does unbelief interpret God's testing as God's attempt to destroy us?
2. What does accusing leaders of murderous intent reveal about the murmurer's heart toward God?

## Interlinear Text

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עַל	הָעָם	וַיִּלֶּן	לַמַּיִם	הָעָם	שֵׁם	וַיִּצְמָא
H5921					H8033	H6770
	And the people	murmured	there for water		And the people	thirsted
	H5971	H3885	H4325		H5971	
הָעֵלִיתָנוּ	זֶה	לָמָּה	וַיֹּאמֶר	מֹשֶׁה		
H5927	H2088	H4100	H559	H4872		
Wherefore is this that thou hast brought			and said	against Moses		
וְאֵת	בָּנֵינוּ	וְאֵת	אֶת־	לְהַמִּית	מִמִּצְרַיִם	וְאֵת
H853	H1121	H853	H853	H4191	H4714	
us and our children				to kill	us up out of Egypt	
בְּצִמָּא:	מִקְלָבֵנוּ					
H6772	H4735					
with thirst	and our cattle					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 15:24** (References Moses): And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

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