

Numbers 11:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.

Analysis

While meat was still between their teeth, God's anger struck them with a severe plague. The timing emphasizes that judgment fell during the very act of indulgence, revealing how quickly blessing can become curse when received in rebellion. The place was named 'Kibroth-hattaavah' (graves of craving), a perpetual warning that lustful desires lead to death (James 1:14-15).

Historical Context

This judgment created a memorial location marked by graves, serving as a visible reminder throughout Israel's wilderness journey of the deadly consequences of rejecting God's provision in favor of fleshly cravings.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What cravings in your life might be leading toward spiritual death rather than life?
2. How does this passage inform your understanding of God's discipline in the lives of His children?

Interlinear Text

וְהָבֶשֶׁת ר	עוֹד נוּ	בֵּין	שִׁנֵּיהֶם	טָרָם	
And while the flesh	H5750	H996	between their teeth	was yet	
H1320			H8127	H2962	
יִכָּרֵת	וְאַף	יְהוָה	חֲכָה	בָּעָם	וַיִּכֶּה
ere it was chewed	the wrath	and the LORD	was kindled	against the people	smote
H3772	H639	H3068	H2734	H5971	H5221
יְהוָה	בָּעָם	מַכָּה	רַבָּה	מְאֹד:	
and the LORD	against the people	plague	great	with a very	
H3068	H5971	H4347	H7227	H3966	

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