

# Numbers 11:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he called the name of that place Kibroth-hattaavah:  
because there they buried the people that lusted.

## Analysis

The memorial name 'Kibroth-hattaavah' (Hebrew קִבְרוֹת הַתְּאַוָּה, Qivrot HaTa'avah—literally 'graves of craving' or 'graves of lust') created permanent reminder of this judgment. As with Taberah (verse 3), the place-name itself became a sermon, preaching to every generation about the deadly nature of sinful desire. Every time Israel mentioned Kibroth-hattaavah, they remembered that ungoverned appetite leads to death. The name's specificity ('graves of craving,' not merely 'graves of judgment') targeted the root sin: not the food itself but the lustful craving behind it.

The explanation 'because there they buried the people that lusted' indicates substantial death toll. The Hebrew ha'am hamit'avvim (הָעִם הַמִּתְּאַוָּה) identifies victims as 'the people who craved/lusted'—not all Israel died, only those whose hearts were consumed by lustful desire. This suggests God's judgment was discriminating, striking those whose craving revealed unregenerate hearts. The reference in Psalm 78:30-31 adds that judgment struck 'while their meat was yet in their mouths,' emphasizing the swiftness and appropriateness of divine judgment—they died in the very act of satisfying their sinful craving.

This memorial served perpetual warning against lust. The New Testament references this event as warning for Christians: 'Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer' (1 Corinthians 10:9-10). The physical graves at Kibroth-hattaavah illustrated spiritual

reality: unrestrained desire leads to death (James 1:14-15). Every sinful craving, if not crucified, will ultimately consume us.

## Historical Context

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Kibroth-hattaavah was located somewhere between Mount Sinai and Hazereth (verse 35), along Israel's wilderness route. Like Taberah, its exact location remains uncertain, but its theological significance is clear. The place became infamous in Israel's history, referenced in Deuteronomy 9:22 as one of the rebellion sites where Israel provoked God. Psalm 78:26-31 and 106:14-15 preserve memory of this judgment, keeping the warning alive for later generations. The literal graves would have remained visible for years, providing tangible reminder of sin's consequences.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the name 'Kibroth-hattaavah' (graves of craving) demonstrate the connection between ungoverned appetite and spiritual death?
2. What does the discriminating nature of God's judgment (striking 'the people that lusted' specifically) teach about divine justice and the seriousness of persistent sinful craving?

## Interlinear Text

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קָרָר וְתַהֲרֵה אֶת־  
And he called H7121      the name H8034      of that place H4725

קָרָר וְתַהֲרֵה אֶת־  
Kibroth-hattaavah H3588      because there they buried H6912      the people H5971

קָרָר וְתַהֲרֵה  
that lusted  
H183

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 9:22** (Parallel theme): And at Taberah, and at Massah, and at Kibroth-hattaavah, ye provoked the LORD to wrath.

**1 Corinthians 10:6** (Parallel theme): Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

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