Numbers 11:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:

Analysis

Israel's complaint reveals spiritual amnesia—they remembered Egypt's food while forgetting its slavery. The 'fish freely' (Hebrew 'chinam', meaning 'without cost') betrays selective memory, as their labor built Egypt's cities. This nostalgia for bondage illustrates how sin deceives by highlighting fleeting pleasures while obscuring heavy chains. Psalm 106:7 confirms Israel 'remembered not the multitude of thy mercies.'

Historical Context

Egypt's Nile provided abundant fish, and vegetables like cucumbers and melons were common foods. However, Israel romanticized their oppression, forgetting the harsh taskmasters and infanticide that prompted God's deliverance.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What past sins does your memory romanticize while minimizing their destructive cost?
2. How can you cultivate gratitude for God's present provisions instead of longing for former bondage?

Interlinear Text

זָכַ רְנוּ אֵת הַדָּגָ ה אֲשֶׁר נֹאכַ ל בְּמִצְרַ יִם חִנָּ ם

We remember	H853	the fish	H834	which we did eat	in Egypt	freely
H2142		H1710		H398	H4714	H2600

אֵ ת הַקִּשֻּׁ אִ ים וְאֵת הָאֲבַטִּחִ ים וְאֵת הָחָצִ יר וְאֵת

H853	the cucumbers	H853	and the melons	H853	and the leeks	H853
	H7180		H20		H2682	

הַבְּצָל ים וְאֵת הַשּׁוּמִים:

and the onions	H853	and the garlick
H1211		H7762

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 16:3 (References Egypt): And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.