

# Numbers 20:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

## Analysis

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Israel complains: 'Wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place?' They call the wilderness an 'evil place' lacking seeds, figs, vines, pomegranates, and water. The Hebrew 'ra' (evil/bad) reveals their twisted perspective - God's guided journey becomes 'evil.' They yearn for Egypt's produce, forgetting slavery. This illustrates human tendency to romanticize the past and blame leaders for following God's call. The new generation repeated their parents' complaints, showing sin's generational patterns. Yet God still provides (v.8-11), demonstrating grace despite ingratitude. Believers similarly complain about God's will when it doesn't match preferences, forgetting the slavery from which Christ delivered us.

## Historical Context

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This complaint occurred near wilderness wanderings' end, at Kadesh in Zin. The new generation, though not guilty of their parents' Kadesh rebellion forty years earlier (Num 13-14), exhibited identical attitudes. The complaint about lacking agricultural produce was ironic - they rejected Canaan (which had these things) generations earlier! Their wandering was consequence of unbelief, not divine cruelty. The pattern warns that even second-generation believers can repeat

## Related Passages

## Study Questions

- ## Interlinear Text

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## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 16:14** (Parallel theme): Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up.

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