

Numbers 21:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people spake against God, and against Moses,
Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the
wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water;
and our soul loatheth this light bread.

Analysis

Israel's complaint repeated familiar themes: 'Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?' They again despised manna, calling it 'light bread' (Hebrew 'qeloqel', worthless or contemptible). This rejection of God's miraculous provision near the journey's end showed that time doesn't automatically mature faith—Israel ended as they began, in unbelieving complaint.

Historical Context

This complaint came in the 40th year, meaning the new generation repeated their parents' faithless pattern (11:6). Despite witnessing 40 years of daily manna provision, they despised God's bread, showing unbelief transmits culturally without intentional faith formation.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What evidence shows your faith has actually matured beyond early struggles with trust?
2. How do you guard against repeating patterns of unbelief you've seen in others?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּדְבֹּר	הָעָם	בְּאֵלֵהֶם	וּבַמֹּשֶׁה	לָמָּה	H4100
spake	And the people	against God	and against Moses		
H1696	H5971	H430	H4872		
הָעֲלִיתָנוּ	מִמִּצְרַיִם	לָמוֹת	בַּמִּדְבָּר	כִּי	H3588
Wherefore have ye brought us up	out of Egypt	to die	in the wilderness		
H5927	H4714	H4191	H4057		
אֵין	בֶּלֱחֶם	אֵין	מִיֵּם	וְנַפְשֵׁנוּ	קָצָה
H369	bread	H369	neither is there any water	and our soul	loatheth
	H3899		H4325	H5315	H6973
בֶּלֱחֶם	הַקֶּלֶקֶל:				
bread	this light				
H3899	H7052				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:19 (References God): Yea, they spake against God; they said, Can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

Numbers 16:41 (References Moses): But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.

Exodus 14:11 (References Moses): And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

Numbers 17:12 (References Moses): And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish.

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