

jenaministries – Part 5 Bible Stories

8. Complaining Israelites Got Meat to Eat and a Plague – Numbers 11

After the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt, there were some Israelites that complained about everything. They complained about not having food and God miraculously provided them with manna which fell from the sky. They also complained about no water, so God miraculously made water come out of a rock.

This story is about some of the Israelites complaining about not having any meat to eat. The manna was not enough for them. Instead of simply asking Moses to request God to provide meat, they yelled and threatened Moses, harshly complaining about it (**Scriptures 1. Israelites Complained for Not Having Meat to Eat - Numbers 11:4-9**).

Moses was frustrated and upset at these Israelites' constant complaining. He brought this request to God and asked for help with dealing with these complaining people (**Scriptures 2. Moses Cried Out to God - Numbers 11:13-15**).

God helped Moses by giving some elders authority to prophesy also, so everything didn't fall on Moses (**Scriptures 3. God Gave Elders Authority to Prophecy - Numbers 11:16-17**). And God also told Moses that he will bring meat to the people the next day for a month - until it comes out of their nostrils and they come to loathe it—because they had rejected the Lord (**Scriptures 4. God Told Moses He Will Bring Meat - Numbers 11:18-23**).

Moses started to question God of where meat would come from that could feed 600,000 men for a month, but God quickly put him in his place. So Moses sent the elders that God gave authority to go and prophesy to the people about meat that was coming.

The next day, there was a great wind that brought in quail from the sea (**Scriptures 5. God Brought the Meat - Numbers 11:31-32**). The quail covered all the land that the Israelites were at. All the Israelites had to do was go pick them up. The quail got spread all around the camp.

But the Lord's anger was strong to those that complained and before they could even eat the quail, God struck them with a severe plague (**Scriptures 6. God Struck Complaining Israelites with a Plague - Numbers 11:33-34**). The place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food.

How can we relate this story to our lives? Please see "Meat and a Plague Bible Study Worksheet".

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8. Complaining Israelites Got Meat to Eat and a Plague – Numbers 11

Scriptures 1. Israelites Complained for Not Having Meat to Eat

Numbers 11:4-9

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into loaves. And it tasted like something made with olive oil. When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.

Scriptures 2. Moses Cried Out to God

Numbers 11:13-15

Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!' I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin."

Scriptures 3. God Gave Elders Authority to Prophecy

Numbers 11:16-17

The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the tent of meeting, that they may stand there with you. I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take some of the power of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them. They will share the burden of the people with you so that you will not have to carry it alone.

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Scriptures 4. God Told Moses He Will Bring Meat

Numbers 11:18-23

“Tell the people: ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, “If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!” Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat it. You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days, but for a whole month—until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it—because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, “Why did we ever leave Egypt?” ’ ” But Moses said, “Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot, and you say, ‘I will give them meat to eat for a whole month!’ Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?” The LORD answered Moses, “Is the LORD’s arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you.”

Scriptures 5. God Brought the Meat

Numbers 11:31-32

Now a wind went out from the LORD and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them up to two cubits deep all around the camp, as far as a day’s walk in any direction. All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than ten homers. Then they spread them out all around the camp.

Scriptures 6. God Struck Complaining Israelites with a Plague

Numbers 11:33-34

But while the meat was still between their teeth and before it could be consumed, the anger of the LORD burned against the people, and he struck them with a severe plague. Therefore the place was named Kibroth Hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had craved other food.