

Timeline of Truth: God's Instruction Concerning Complaining

What the Old Testament Teaches about Complaining:

1. God _____ Complaining

- **Exodus 16:7-8** ⁷ "And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what *are* we, that you complain against us?" ⁸ Also Moses said, "*This shall be seen* when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what *are* we? Your complaints *are* not against us but against the LORD."
- **Exodus 16:12** ¹² "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God.'" "
- **Numbers 14:27** ²⁷ "How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me.

2. Complainers Find _____ with Others (No Personal Accountability)

- **Exodus 16:2** ² Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness
- **Exodus 17:3** ³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why *is* it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"
- **Numbers 14:2** ² And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!"
- **Numbers 16:41** ⁴¹ On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD."
- **Joshua 9:18** ¹⁸ But the children of Israel did not attack them, because the rulers of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD God of Israel. And all the congregation complained against the rulers.

3. Complaining Against God's Leaders _____ Complaining Against God

- **Exodus 16:7, 8** ⁷ "And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what *are* we, that you complain against us?" ⁸ Also Moses said, "*This shall be seen* when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what *are* we? Your complaints *are* not against us but against the LORD."
- **Numbers 16:11** ¹¹ "Therefore you and all your company *are* gathered together against the LORD. And what *is* Aaron that you complain against him?"

4. Complainers Focus on their Immediate _____

- **Exodus 17:3** ³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why *is* it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"
- **Psalms 59:15** ¹⁵ They wander up and down for food, And how! if they are not satisfied.

5. God _____ Complaining

- **Numbers 14:27** ²⁷ "How long *shall I bear with* this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me
- **Numbers 14:29** ²⁹ "The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above.

- **Numbers 17:5** ⁵ "And it shall be *that* the rod of the man whom I choose will blossom; thus I will rid Myself of the complaints of the children of Israel, which they make against you."
- **Numbers 17:10** ¹⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die."

6. Complainers Often _____ the Truth

- **Exodus 17:3** ³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"
- **Numbers 14:2** ² And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, "If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness!"
- **Numbers 16:41** ⁴¹ On the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the LORD."

7. Complaining is _____

- **Numbers 14:36** ³⁶ Now the men whom Moses sent to spy out the land, who returned and made all the congregation complain against him by bringing a bad report of the land,

Instruction from 1 Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 10:1-15 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, ² all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ⁷ And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." ⁸ Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; ⁹ nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; ¹⁰ nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*. ¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵ I speak as to wise men; judge for yourselves what I say.

1. God was not _____ with the Israelites (vs. 5)
2. The Israelites desired things which they should not have _____ (vs. 6)
3. The Israelites committed a number of _____: idolatry, sexual immorality, tempted Christ, complaining (vs. 7-10)
4. God _____ people because of their complaining (vs. 10)
5. God used the Israelites as an _____ for us (vs. 11):
 - For an example – could be as a warning
 - For admonishment – an instruction meant for correction
6. We need to _____ so that we do not complain as the Israelites did (3 warnings)