

A QUAIL FORCE WIND LEAVES A FOUL TASTE

I. Numbers 11:1-35

A. Today we find ourselves in the book of Numbers, a favorite I'm told among mathematicians. Authored by Moses, it's the 4th book of the Law, known as the *Pentateuch* to Christians and the *Torah* to the Jews. Its Hebrew name, *Bemidbar*, means, "*In the Wilderness.*" So what about the book's title? It comes from the Greek translation of the OT: *Arithmoi*. Chapters 1-4 & 26 God commands the people to be counted. Their census totals, minus Levites, women & children total: 603,550. A good estimate all told is 2 million souls. (About the population of all Central Ohio.)

B. Numbers chronicles the journey of the Israelites, fresh out of Egypt, now in the Sinai desert, trekking toward the Jordan River. Canaan's on the other side. It was first promised by God to Abraham many centuries before and this promise was extended to Abe's son, Isaac and grandson, Jacob. And what had this land flowing with milk & honey come to be known as? *The Promised Land*.

C. One more parenthetical comment with regard to land and ownership and rightful possession. As it says in Psalm 24: "*The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof...*" The deeds of mankind, of nations, tribes, and peoples, are written on paper but the ultimate Deed-holder is Yahweh Elohim. It is He who gives and takes away. And that is true with lands and kings and life itself. He who has ears...

D. Numbers 11:1-35 (ESV) takes us to the the the wilderness of whining...

1) **V1-4: 1** *And the people complained in the hearing of the LORD about their misfortunes, and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp. 2* *Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down. 3* *So the name of that place was called Taberah, (**Burning**) because the fire of the LORD burned among them. 4* *Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, "Oh that we had meat to eat! (**The Rabble are the non-Israelites who joined the mass-exodus of God's people out of Egypt. The rabble were troublemakers. They were not in this venture for God's sake but their own. They were not children of the promise but wanted in on the promises. Their voice in the wilderness reminds me of the voice of the serpent in the Garden. Ignoring God's voice, Israel listened to the Rabble.**)*

2) **V5: 5** *We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. (**They romanticize their former life of slavery while amplifying the perceived woes of their new found freedom. They've escaped the bonds of a super power nation but dismiss the supreme power of Almighty God!**)*

3) **V6-8: 6** *But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at." (**Totally untrue!**) 7* *Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium. 8* *The people went about and gathered it and ground it in handmills or beat it in mortars and boiled it in pots and made cakes of it. And the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil. (**Cakes or carp? Pastries or leeks & onions? Hum...**)*

4) V9-15: 9 When the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell with it. **10** Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. **11** Moses said to the LORD, "Why have You dealt ill with Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You lay the burden of all this people on me? **12** Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,' to the land that You swore to give their fathers? **13** Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.' **14** I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. **15** If You will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in Your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness." **(Can't imagine feeling like that!)**

5) V16-20: 16 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. **17** And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone. **18** And say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat, for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was better for us in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. **19** You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, **20** but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we come out of Egypt?"'" **(Their complaining overall represented a rejection of God Himself!)**

6) V21-22: 21 But Moses said, "The people among whom I am number six hundred thousand on foot, and you have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat a whole month!' **(600,000 men not to mention another 1.5M other mouths to feed!)** **22** Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, and be enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, and be enough for them?" **(Whew! Please pray for Moses!)**

7) V23-25: 23 And the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's hand shortened? **(Is My hand too short Moses?!)** Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not." **24** So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. **25** Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. **(Something like a one day revival ensued, the Spirit of God moved, and these 70 men declared the word of the Lord in such a way that the people knew these men had been anointed and appointed to help lead and care for them.)**

8) V26-28: 26 Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. **27** And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." **28** And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." **(Something like this happened to Jesus. Mark 9:38-41 (NLT) records it this way: **38** John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using Your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he**

wasn't in our group." **39** "Don't stop him!" Jesus said. "No one who performs a miracle in My name will soon be able to speak evil of Me. **40** Anyone who is not against us is for us. **41** If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded. **Downtown Millersport this past Tuesday there were a couple ladies street preaching by the traffic light. Their sign declared, "You must be born again!" Maybe you saw them and consider their methodology peculiar or out of place. But they are for Christ and therefore not against Him nor us!**

9) And how does Moses respond to his understudy? V29: 29 *But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit on them!"* (**Joel actually prophesied such a day would come and sure enough on Pentecost such a day came!**)

10) V30-32: 30 *And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp. **31** Then a wind from the LORD sprang up, and it brought quail from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, around the camp, and about two cubits above the ground. (Roughly a yard off the ground.) **32** And the people rose all that day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail. Those who gathered least gathered ten homers. (60 bushels for those who gathered the least!) And they spread them out for themselves all around the camp. (It's believed these quail are from the partridge family of birds. No, not the TV show! Perhaps they tasted like chicken, at first anyway, but then...)*

11) V33-34: 33 *While the meat was yet between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck down the people with a very great plague. **34** Therefore the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had the craving. ("Graves of Craving" became an infamous cemetery in the wilderness.)*

12) V35: 35 *From Kibroth-hattaavah the people journeyed to Hazeroth, and they remained at Hazeroth. (I suspect the manna tasted pretty good after all that...)*

E. Did you ever eat something as a kid, maybe too much of something, and then got so sick to your stomach you threw up? From then on you never regained your appetite for whatever it was. The quail undoubtedly left a foul taste in all their mouths!

F. So what are some takeaways from this dreadful account?

1) Complaining does not go over well with God... (A chronic complainer says, "God, You're not trustworthy!" Mark Twain said: "Don't complain and talk about all your problems--80% of the people don't care and the other 20% think you deserve them.")

2) When God gives us what we crave it's not always a blessing. Need an example? Money! Sometime look up how many people met ruin after winning the lottery! Some folks crave wealth so that trusting God becomes unnecessary. Martin Luther saw this 500 years ago: "Riches are the least worthy gifts which God can give man, yet men toil for them day and night, and take no rest. Therefore, God frequently gives riches to foolish people to whom He gives nothing else."

3) A sense of entitlement before a generous God reveals a prideful heart. Approaching God with a *You owe me attitude* is abominable! (Remember, our Lord's hands that give and His hands that withhold are equally beautiful...)

4) Being grateful before a generous God reveals a humble heart. (Solomon, James, and Peter all wrote: "*God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.*")

5) Those slow to learn are often those who just refuse to learn. But God is a perfect teacher and has unlimited ways of getting His lessons across.

6) *The Rabble* still exist. They're like tares among the wheat. They're like carp among the walleye. They may exist in your own family, in your church, in your neighborhood or town, and they may appear on your TV, in an online blog or a Facebook post. Heed them not, heed instead the Words of God...

7) What Israel did we must not do: Romanticize our sinful past; exaggerate the obstacles of the present walks or future; and dismiss God from the equation. We dare not diminish the severity of our rebellion against God i.e. slavery to sin, bound for hell; over amplify the challenges of walking out our lives here according to God's plan as though God was not going to be with us every step of the way; and treat God as impotent, i.e. choosing to adopt the notion that God's arm is too short and trusting Him will prove foolhardy. Remember, "*He who began a good work in you...*"

G. Romans 8:31-32 (ESV) says this: **31** *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? (This is not an invitation to give a celestial wish list to some great Santa Claus in the sky. What this is really saying is: If God gave His Son, Jesus our Lord, to bear our sin on a bloody cross, how will He not, going forward from that cross, also give us whatever we need in terms of ongoing forgiveness of sin, progressive victory over that sin, the Holy Spirit to fill, sanctify, empower, and make us fruit bearing children of God while granting us all the provision necessary to live out the life He's called us to--lives that honor and glorify His holy name now and forevermore?!)*

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Numbers 11:1-35 \(ESV\)](#)

1 And the people complained in the hearing of the LORD about their misfortunes, and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp. **2** Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died down. **3** So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the LORD burned among them. **4** Now the rabble that was among them had a strong craving. And the people of Israel also wept again and said, "Oh that we had meat to eat! **5** We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. **6** But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its appearance like that of bdellium. **8** The people went about and gathered it and ground it in handmills or beat it in mortars and boiled it in pots and made cakes of it. And the taste of it was like the taste of cakes baked with oil. **9** When the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell with it. **10** Moses heard the people weeping throughout their clans, everyone at the door of his tent. And the anger of the LORD blazed hotly, and Moses was displeased. **11** Moses said to the LORD, "Why have You dealt ill with Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You lay the burden of all this people on me? **12** Did I conceive all this people? Did I give them birth, that You should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a nursing child,' to the land that You swore to give their fathers? **13** Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me and say, 'Give us meat, that we may eat.' **14** I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me. **15** If You will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in Your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness." **16** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Gather for Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you. **17** And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone. **18** And say to the people, 'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat, for you have wept in the hearing of the LORD, saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? For it was better for us in Egypt." Therefore the LORD will give you meat, and you shall eat. **19** You shall not eat just one day, or two days, or five days, or ten days, or twenty days, **20** but a whole month, until it comes out at your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have rejected the LORD who is among you and have wept before Him, saying, "Why did we come out of Egypt?"'" **21** But Moses said, "The people among whom I am number six hundred thousand on foot, and you have said, 'I will give them meat, that they may eat a whole month!' **22** Shall flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, and be enough for them? Or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, and be enough for them?" **23** And the LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's hand shortened? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not." **24** So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. **25** Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it. **26** Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. **27** And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." **28** And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, "My lord Moses, stop them." **29** But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put His Spirit on them!" **30** And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp. **31** Then a wind from the LORD sprang up, and it brought quail from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, around the camp, and about two cubits above the ground. **32** And the

people rose all that day and all night and all the next day, and gathered the quail. Those who gathered least gathered ten homers. And they spread them out for themselves all around the camp. **33** While the meat was yet between their teeth, before it was consumed, the anger of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD struck down the people with a very great plague. **34** Therefore the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, because there they buried the people who had the craving. **35** From Kibroth-hattaavah the people journeyed to Hazereth, and they remained at Hazereth.

Psalm 24:1 (ESV)

1 The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein...

Mark 9:38-41 (NLT)

38 John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone using Your name to cast out demons, but we told him to stop because he wasn't in our group." **39** "Don't stop him!" Jesus said. "No one who performs a miracle in My name will soon be able to speak evil of Me. **40** Anyone who is not against us is for us. **41** If anyone gives you even a cup of water because you belong to the Messiah, I tell you the truth, that person will surely be rewarded.

Romans 8:31-32 (ESV)

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

Quote by Mark Twain

"Don't complain and talk about all your problems--80% of the people don't care and the other 20% think you deserve them."

Quote by Martin Luther

"Riches are the least worthy gifts which God can give man, yet men toil for them day and night, and take no rest. Therefore, God frequently gives riches to foolish people to whom He gives nothing else."

Bonus Goodies

When Winsome Doesn't Work - Darryl Dash (The Gospel Coalition)

<https://ca.thegospelcoalition.org/columns/straight-paths/when-winsome-doesnt-work/>

Who Are the Jehovah's Witnesses? - Ligonier Ministries

https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/field-guide-on-false-teaching-jehovahs-witnesses?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm_campaign=Once%20a%20day

[_2023-06-10_08:30:00&utm_content=5575&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=articles-and-posts](https://www.foxnews.com/media/champion-oklahoma-softball-team-goes-viral-how-find-fulfillment-joy-from-lord)

Oklahoma U. CWS Championship Women's Softball Team-Where They Find Fulfillment
<https://www.foxnews.com/media/champion-oklahoma-softball-team-goes-viral-how-find-fulfillment-joy-from-lord>

The Quail - Bible Lessons from Animals (Pastor Erik / The Bible Corner)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkYMr-l1IDk>

"So You Want To Go Back to Egypt" - Keith Green - Live at West Coast 1980
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foUH4No_SVU

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[Joel 2:28-32 \(ESV\)](#)

28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. **29** Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. **30** And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. **31** The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. **32** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

[Acts 2:14-21 \(ESV\)](#)

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. **15** For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. **16** But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: **17** "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; **18** even on My male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. **19** And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; **20** the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. **21** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

[Luke 9:49-50 \(ESV\)](#)

49 John answered, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." **50** But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him, for the one who is not against you is for you."

[Philippians 1:6 \(AMP\)](#)

6 I am convinced and confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will [continue to] perfect and complete it until the day of Christ Jesus [the time of His return].

Proverbs 3:34 (VOICE)

34 God treats the arrogant as they treat others, mocking the mockers, scorning the scornful, but He pours out His grace on the humble.

James 4:6-10 (NLT)

6 And he gives grace generously. As the Scriptures say, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world. 9 Let there be tears for what you have done. Let there be sorrow and deep grief. Let there be sadness instead of laughter, and gloom instead of joy. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up in honor.

1 Peter 5:5-7 (ESV)

5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you.

Theological Note on 1 Peter 5:6-7

The ESV Study Bible

"6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you." - 1 Peter 5:6-7 (ESV)

5:6 Humble yourselves. In their suffering, God's people are to give themselves entirely to Him, submitting to His wise ordering of their lives. **Mighty hand of God** brings to mind the exodus, where the Lord delivered Israel from Egypt *"by a mighty hand"* (e.g. Ex. 3:19; 32:11; Deut. 4:34; 5:15; Dan. 9:15). Those who suffer can likewise be confident that the day of humiliation will not last forever. Whether later in this earthly life or on the last day, God will **exalt** His people at the proper time.

5:7 Casting all your anxieties on Him. The participle *"casting"* modifies the main verbal phrase *"humble yourselves"* from V.6. Worry is a form of pride because it involves taking concerns upon oneself instead of entrusting them to God. Believers can trust God because, as their Father, **He cares** for them.

- Theological Notes on 1 Peter 5:6-7, *The ESV Study Bible*, Crossway, p. 2413.