

Wilderness Complaints

Passage	Location	Subject	Complaint	God's Response
Ex 14:10-31	Red Sea	Rescue from enemies	"Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."	Parting the Red Sea for Israel to escape and the destruction of the Egyptian army.
Ex 15:22-27	Marah	Bitter Water	...the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?"	Wood cast into water to make it sweet.
Ex 16:1-36	W. of Sin	Hunger	"Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."	Bread from heaven every day until they reached the Promised Land. Gave them quail to eat.
Ex 17:1-7	Massah, Meribah	Thirst	"Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?"	Moses told to strike the rock and bring water from it.
Law Given at Mt. Sinai				
Ex 32	Mt. Sinai	Idolatry	"Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."	God desired to destroy the people. Moses crushed the idol and made Israel drink the dust in water. Levites slew some of their people. Plague sent on the people.
Nu 11:1-3	Taberah	Whining	"And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes"	God sent fire to burn people on the outside of the camp.
Nu 11:4-35	Kibroth-hattaavah	Ingratitude	"Oh that we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt that cost nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic. But now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."	The Lord was angry and sent an abundance of quail and struck down people with a great plague.
Nu 12:1-16	Hazereth	Authority	"Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman. And they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?"	God rebuked Aaron and Miriam. Miriam struck with leprosy and sent out of the camp for seven days.
Nu 13/14	W. of Paran	Unbelief and Rebellion	Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."	God decreed that all in the census, 20 years and older except Joshua and Caleb, would die in the wilderness. Wander in the wilderness for forty years.

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Nu 14:39-45	W. of Paran	Presumption	"Here we are. We will go up to the place that the Lord has promised, for we have sinned." But Moses said, "Why now are you transgressing the command of the Lord, when that will not succeed?"	God allowed the Amalekites and Canaanites to defeat Israel.
Nu 16:1-40	W. of Paran?	Authority	Korah, leaders, and 250 chiefs of the congregation challenge Moses and Aaron: "You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?" Dathan and Abiram: "Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you must also make yourself a prince over us? Moreover, you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up."	God wanted to wipe out the congregation but, at Moses and Aaron's intercession, opened the earth and fire came from heaven and destroyed Korah and the other leaders in the rebellion (Korah's sons didn't die, Nu 26:8-11).
Nu 16:41-50 Nu 17:1-13	W. of Paran?	Discontent	But on the next day all the congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and against Aaron, saying, "You have killed the people of the Lord."	God is angered and started to kill 14,700 with a plague until Moses and Aaron interceded with incense. Aaron's staff made to bud to show God chose him.
Nu 20:2-13	Meribah	Thirst	"Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the Lord! Why have you brought the assembly of the Lord into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink."	God commanded Moses and Aaron to gather the assembly before the rock and command it to bring water. Moses struck the rock twice and, as punishment, God prohibited him from entering the Promised Land.
Nu 21:4-9	Near Edom	Ingratitude	"Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food."	God sent fiery serpents that killed many of the people. God allowed the penitent to be healed with the bronze serpent.
Nu 25:1-18	Shittim	Idolatry	People committed sin of idolatry and sinful behavior with the Moabite women serving Baal of Peor.	Chiefs of Israel hung and tribal leaders kill their people who sinned. Plague killed 24,000 people.