

WILDERNESS LESSONS # 9

November 22, 2015

I. Camp #12 Kibroth-hattaavah

Nu 33:16 journeyed from the wilderness of Sinai and camped at **Kibroth-hattaavah**.

A. Definition of Kibroth-hattaavah = The graves of lust, or longing

The reason for this name = here they buried the people who had been greedy (Nu 11:34).

B. Background

1. They leave Sinai (Nu 10:11-13, 33-34)

- a. They leave Sinai - 16 months & 20 days after (since) Passover.
- b. The cloud moved and they set out on their journey (Nu 10:12, 34).
Israel would journey whenever the cloud lifted from the tabernacle (Ex 40:34-38).
- c. This is their first time moving:
 - 1) "according to the commandment of the LORD through Moses" (Nu 10:13).
They are now a people under Law covenant.
 - 2) "With the ark of the covenant of the LORD journeying in front of them" (Nu 10:33).
- d. Purpose of this three-day journey:
 - 1) They set out - on a "three days' journey" (Num 10:33; 33:8).
- the reason for leaving Egypt - "to go on a 3 days' journey into the wilderness, to sacrifice to the LORD." (Ex 3:18; 5:3; 8:27; 15:22)
 - 2) They are also seeking a resting place for themselves (Nu 10:33-34).
(See also Dt 12:9; Ps 132:8; Jer 15:6; Heb 4:1-3; 4:4-7; 4:8-11)

2. Significance of why Sinai is called "the mount of the LORD" (Nu 10:33)

- a. Israel experienced the presence of God at Mount Sinai (Jdg 5:5; Ps 68:8,17).
- b. Mount Sinai is where God made the Old Covenant with Israel (Neh 9:12-13).
- c. Mount Sinai is where Israel hears the voice of God (Dt 4:12,33; 5:3-5; Neh 9:12-13).
- d. Mount Sinai represents [corresponds to] Jerusalem [Hagar] (Gal 4:21-26).

3. They are on a circuitous route (Ex 13:17-18; Nu 32:13; Dt 1:31; 8:2; Ps 136:16).

4. The order of their marching (Nu 10:14-28) - 4 groups of 3 tribes; (the tribe of Levi between them, carrying the tabernacle).

5. Camping around the tabernacle [East, South, West, North) by tribal groups (Nu 2:2-34).

Looking down on the camp, you would see that their camp made a form of a cross; camping around the Tabernacle.

East (Nu 2:3-9) = Judah 74,600; Issachar 54,400; Zebulun 57,004; total = 186,400.

South (Nu 2:10-16) = Reuben 46,500; Simeon 59,300; Gad 45,650; total = 151,450.

Center of camp = the tent of meeting with the tribe of Levi.

West (Nu 2:18-24) = Ephraim 40,500; Manasseh 32,200; Benjamin 35,400; total = 108,100.

North = (Nu 2:25-31) = Dan 62,700; Asher 41,500; Naphtali 53,400; total = 157,600.

C. Events that take place

1. The people complain and fire (the anger of God) consumes some (Nu 11:1-3; Dt 9:22)

The place is renamed (called) Taberah (Nu 11:3; Dt 9:22)

Taberah = (root = to consume with fire); consuming, burning.

(see also Is 4:4; 30:27; 33:14; Heb 12:29)

2. Some foreigners Murmur - (Nu 11:4-34).

a. Their greedy desires [for meat and spice]; (Nu 11:4-9)

b. God promised to give them meat (Nu 11:10-23);

He sends quail for a month (Nu 11:19-32).

They rejected the Lord by weeping & saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?" (v. 20).

c. Their murmuring and greed is punished with a plague (Nu 11:33; Ps 78:30-31).

3. The struggle of Moses - (Num 11:10-30)

1. He complains (Num 11:10-15).

Moses tells God that the burden of leading a rebellious people is too heavy to bear and he prefers death instead.

2. Moses' faith waivers (Num 11:21-22).

21 But Moses said, "The people, among whom I am, are 600,000 on foot; yet You have said, 'I will give them meat, so that they may eat for a whole month.' 22 "Should flocks and herds be slaughtered for them, to be sufficient for them? Or should all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to be sufficient for them?"

3. Moses questions God's ability to provide (Num 11:23).

The LORD said to Moses, "Is the LORD's power limited? Now you shall see whether My word will come true for you or not." (see also Isa 50:2; 59:1; 1Cor 1:25)

4. Seventy elders appointed to assist Moses. (Nu 11:16-17, 24-30).

70 leaders are appointed and anointed by the Spirit, and they prophesy (v 25);

Eldad and Medad continue to prophesy, [at the protest of Joshua],

Moses' response:

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 upon them!" (Nu 11:29).

II. Camp # 13 Hazeroth

Num 33:17 journeyed from Kibroth-hattaavah and camped at **Hazeroth**.

Nu 11:35 From Kibroth-hattaavah the people set out for Hazeroth, and they remained at Hazeroth.

A. Definition of Hazeroth = enclosure; [like a yard (as enclosed by a fence)]

B. Events - The disrespect of Aaron and Miriam [they speak against Moses] (Nu 12:1-16)

1. Why did Aaron and Miriam speak against Moses? (Nu 12:1-2)

1) Moses married a Cushite (non-Jewish) woman.

2) God also speaks to them [they also represent God]. (Nu 16:3)

2. Deeper reason = spiritual pride

a. Three cases of leprosy as a result of Spiritual pride:

Miriam challenges the authority of Moses (Nu 12:1-16).
Uzziah burns incense in the sanctuary (2Chr 26:19-21).
Gehazi seeks the reward from Naaman the leper (2Ki 5:25-27).

b. Grace is our antidote to spiritual pride

Rom 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. (Rom 12:10; Phil 2:3; 1Pt 5:5).

3. Miriam punished by leprosy.

Nu 12:10 But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous.

a. They are delayed seven day for Miriam.

Nu 12:14-15 But the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut up for seven days outside the camp, and afterward she may be received again." 15 So Miriam was shut up outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again.

b. The anger of God with individuals

The Lord's anger against Moses (Exod. 4:14; Deut. 1:37; Deut. 3:26; Deut. 4:21);
the anger of the Lord burned against Aaron and Miriam (Num. 12:9);
the Lord was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him (Deut. 9:20);
the Lord's anger broke out against Uzzah (2 Sam. 6:7-8; 1 Chr. 13:10);
the Lord was angry with Solomon (1 Kgs. 11:9);
wrath came on Hezekiah because he was proud (2 Chr. 32:25);
God was angry with Amaziah (2 Chr. 25:15);
God was angry with Job's friends (Job 42:7);
God tears me in his anger (Job 16:9);
your wrath is heavy on me (Ps. 88:7);
your anger has swept over me (Ps. 88:16);
I will bring on you the blood of wrath and jealousy (Ezek. 16:38);
I eat ashes because of your great wrath (Ps. 102:9-10);
why should God be angry and destroy your work? (Eccles. 5:6);
I will bear the Lord's indignation because I have sinned against him (Mic. 7:9);
do not rebuke me in your anger (Ps. 6:1; Ps. 38:1);
do not turn me away in anger (Ps. 27:9).

III. Camp # 14 Rithmah

Num 33:18 They journeyed from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah (Dt 1:19)

A. Three names are given to this place

Nu 33:18 They journeyed from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah.

Nu 32:8 "This is what your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land.
(Nu 12:16; Dt 1:19).

Nu 12:16 ... the people moved out from Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

B. Definitions:

Definition of Rithmah = Binding;

Definition of Kadesh-barnea = Sacred (holy) desert of wandering

Definition of Paran = Beauty; Place of caverns

Paran is found 11 times in the O. T. It is the place where ...
Hagar and Ishmael settle after Abraham sends them away (Gen 21:21).

The cloud (of glory) rested after they leave Sinai (Num 10:12).

The 14th camp in Israel's journey through the wilderness (Num 12:16).

Moses sends out the 12 spies into Canaan (Num 13:1-3);
They return to give a bad report (Num 13:26).

David finds refuge from Saul (1Sa 25:1-4).

Mount Paran is a (prophetic) poetic parallel to Mount Sinai ...
as the place of revealing His glory and power (Hab 3:3-6).
as the place of God's love and power in His saints (Dt 33:2-3);

C. Outline of events (Num 12:16 - 14:45)

1. God commands Moses to send spies. Nu 13:1, 2.
2. The people initiate searching out the land of Canaan (Dt 1:22-25).
3. Names of the leaders chosen to spy out the land (Nu 13:3-16).
4. Their specific commission and journey (Nu 13:17-26).
5. The spies report (Nu 13:27-29).
6. The people terrified and rebel (Nu 14:1-4, 10).
7. Response of the leaders - Moses, Aaron, Caleb and Joshua (Nu 14:5-9).
8. The intercession of Moses (Nu 14:11-19).
9. The Lord forgives and blesses Caleb and Joshua (Nu 14:20-24).
10. The Lord punishes their rebellion (Nu 14:22-38; Dt 1:35-40).
11. The 10 spies died by a plague before the Lord (Nu 14:36-38).
12. People try to take the land and are defeated by the enemies (Nu 14:40-45; Dt 1:41-44).

References used in this study:

The New Topical Textbook
The Outline Bible
Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament
Collins Thesaurus of the Bible