

# Numbers 10-12

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## Day 1

### Departure from Sinai. Read Numbers 10



1. How did the Lord direct the nation of Israel during their encampments and travels? 10:1,2
  
2. For what various commands or occasions were trumpets used?
  - 10:3
  
  - 10:4
  
  - 10:5,6
  
  - 10:9
  
  - 10:10

For the numbering and encampment of the tribes see Numbers 2.

**FYI:** "If we follow Jewish tradition, long blasts were used to assemble the people to Moses, to the tent of meeting and for worship. Short staccato blasts were used in battle and to order the camps to move off." (Wenham)" - David Guzik

3. What past event had the people associated with a trumpet? Exodus 19:16 (See also 1 Thessalonians 4:16)
  
4. When and why did the people begin to journey toward the promised land? 10:11-13 (How long had the people been at Mount Sinai? Compare Exodus 19:1)
  
5. What impression does 10:14-28 (as well as Numbers 9:17-23) give you about the orderly movement of the people? (What atmosphere do you think there was? What does this convey about God's care and guidance of the people?)

**FYI:** "This section...conveys a sense of pageantry, drama, and ordered design. The section was designed to be read aloud as a narrative of God's faithfulness to all of His people and of their proper response to His guidance. The repetition of the names from each tribe must have been an eloquent statement at the time. One would expect these names to be memorialized as the leaders of the first generation who led their tribes in Canaan. Because of the events that follow (chs. 11-14), however, these names take on a certain sadness. These people did not achieve their destiny in the land. Rather, they were buried in the desert." - The Nelson Study Bible

6. Who carried the tabernacle and where was it located in the march?

- 10:17 (See Numbers 3:17)
- 10:21

7. Where was the ark of the covenant? 10:33 (See Joshua 3:3,4)

- What reminders and confidence would this have given? Exodus 33:14; Deuteronomy 1:33

### **Moses and Hobab**

8. What appeals did Moses make to Hobab, his brother-in-law, about coming with them?

- 10:29
- 10:31
- 10:32
- What does this say about Moses' leadership and his understand of how the Lord works?

**FYI:** "Though Israel was guided by God, there was still help needed by man - men like Reuel. God plans it this way, often arranging it so His help comes to us partially through people He has ordained to help us." - David Guzik

9. In what ways do you see Hobab's knowledge of the desert helping on the journey?

- How had Moses benefited from his in-laws advice before? (Exodus 18:17-19)
- What happened to Hobab? See Judges 1:16; 4:11

10. What did Moses request from the Lord as they traveled and when they rested? 10:35-36 (What tone do you hear in his words?)

**Applying the Word:** What helpful guidelines, if any, do you draw from this chapter about preparing for a large undertaking for the Lord?

## Day 2

### Departure from Sinai. Read Numbers 11:1-15

COMPLAINED

11. What kinds of things do you think the people might have been “*complaining*” (11:1) about as they started out? (How aware of God’s power, presence and provisions should they have been at this point in time?)
- How did the Lord respond? 11:1b Why do you think this judgment was so severe? Do you see mercy in the midst of wrath? (Why do you think this was seen differently that Exodus 15:22-25 or 17:1-2?)

**FYI:** “Israel, having been ordered, organized, cleansed, separated, blessed, taught how to give, reminded of Gods deliverance, given Gods presence, and the tools to advance to the Promised Land...- and immediately, **the people complained**...Complaining hearts displease God, because it shows so little gratitude for what He has done in the past, and faith for what He can do right now.”  
- David Guzik

12. To whom did the people cry out? 11:2 To whom did Moses cry out? What does that indicate about their hearts? (Mark all references to Moses praying, crying out, falling down before or talking with the Lord.)
- How did the Lord respond to Moses’ prayer? What should this have taught the people?
13. Who instigated the next problem and what motivated them? 11:4
- How did the people react? What does this illustrate about the power or effect of a few people (the mixed multitude) on many?

CRAVED

**IT’S HEBREW TO ME:** “**Craved/had greedy desires/fell a lusting**” OT:8378 *ta’avaḥ*; “desire, delight, bounty; craving, greed. It indicates something that is attractive and delightful to the eyes, desirable... It indicates the longings of a person’s hearts, its cravings.”  
- The Complete Word Study Dictionary OT (1209)

14. From the people’s complaints in 11:4--6, what would you say about:

- Their memory of the past? (Compare to the complaint a year earlier. Ex. 16:3)
- Their gratitude for the present?
- Their hope for the future?

15. Read the promises God had made to this nation (Exodus 34:20-33, see also 3:8). *When the people complained about their circumstances, what were they really saying about God? About His promises? What were they fearing and honoring more than God?*

16. How did Moses and the Lord feel about the people’s complaints? 11:10

17. Summarize the questions/concerns Moses presented to the Lord. With each statement, record any difficulties you see in his thinking and/or emotions.

	Question/concern	Difficulties with his thinking/emotions
11:11	<i>e.g. God I’m serving you. Why are you allowing this? What did I do wrong?</i>	
11:12		
11:13		
11:14		
11:15		

18. What does Moses’ example of prayer say about approaching the Lord honestly and openly?

**Applying the Word:** During times of stress, on a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate yourself with the following?

- keeping things in perspective/not exaggerating a problem \_\_\_\_\_
- avoiding a victim mentality/focusing on the positives vs. the negatives \_\_\_\_\_
- remembering God's presence, power and promises \_\_\_\_\_

What helps you to maintain a godly mindset/attitude?

## Day 3

God answers Moses. Read Numbers 11:16-35

19. How did the Lord answer Moses' prayer? 11:16,17 What does this indicate about Moses' greater need?

**Digging Deeper**  
Compare the Lord's response to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:1-8 when he faced extreme discouragement.

- What does this say about the Lord's understanding and compassion for our emotional, physical and spiritual needs?

20. How did the Lord say He would respond to the people's complaint about meat? 11:18-20



- Why? 11:20b

21. Why difference do you see in the people's complaints versus Moses'?

- What do you think would have happened if the people had sought out the Lord in prayer for meat?

22. What problem did Moses have with God's promise of providing meat? 11:21,22 (Compare John 6:5-9)

- What was wrong with his perception of God? 11:23

23. Underline descriptions of God's power and ability in the following.

- Job 42:1-2 Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. NIV
- Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. NIV
- Matthew 19:26 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." NIV
- Philippians 3:20 And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, NIV
- Ephesians 3:20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, NIV
- Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. NAS
- 1 Timothy 6:15-16 God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen. NIV

24. How did the Lord demonstrate the 70 elders' authority as leaders? 11:25

- What had two of the elders failed to do? 11:26b What did God still do?

25. What did Joshua want Moses to do about Eldad and Medad's prophesying? 11:27,28 (What do you think he was concerned about?)

- How did Moses' react? 11:29 What do you think He understood about God? What does this say about his motives as a leader? (Compare Philippians 1:15,16)

26. What miraculous nature was there to the quails' arrival? 11:31

- What happened to the people? 11:33

Psalm 78  
gives  
interesting  
insights into  
these events.

**FYI: "WRATH:** The personal manifestation of God's holy, moral character in judgment against sin. Wrath is neither an impersonal process nor is it irrational and fitful like anger. It is in no way vindictive or malicious. It is holy indignation-God's anger directed against sin. God's wrath is an expression of His holy love. If God is not a God of wrath, His love is no more than frail, worthless sentimentality; the concept of mercy is meaningless; and the Cross was a cruel and unnecessary experience for His Son."  
- Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

27. Why would a healthy “*fear of the Lord*” (understanding that He is in control and, is with them and will provide for them) be so important for this nation? i.e. What would happen when they faced the dangers of conquering the promised land if they did not believe this.

**Digging Deeper**

Since we are all guilty of sin and therefore by nature “children of wrath” (Eph. 2:1-3), how are we saved from God’s wrath?

**Applying the Word:** *It has been said that “God hates sin because He loves us.” When have you (or someone you know) pursued a “craving” that has drawn you away from God? How did it affect your life? How did the Lord draw you back to Himself? How does understanding that it is because He loves you that He hates that sin (self-defeating behavior) make a difference?*

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## Day 4

### Departure from Sinai. Read Numbers 12

29. What was Aaron and Miriam’s initial complaint against Moses? 12:1

- What would you say was the real issue from their statements in 12:2? (How do you think criticism coming from his own family made Moses feel?)

**FYI:** “The LORD had spoken through many in the Book of Exodus already: The LORD spoke to the people through Aaron in [Exodus 4:30](#);...Miriam herself spoke words inspired by God in [Exodus 15:21](#). But in the sense of there being one leader for Israel, there was only one. Moses, under Gods hand, had the authority and the accountability to lead the people.”  
- David Guzik

31. What comment about the Lord is made in 12:2c? See Hebrews 4:13

- What was the Lord’s assessment of Moses? 12:3 (Compare Matthew 11:29)

**FYI: Humble** Moses “was entirely dependent on God and saw that he was.” - Vine's Expository Dictionary

32. How did the Lord respond? 12:4,5 How intimidating would this have been?

- How did He describe Moses? What made Moses relationship with the Lord unusual? 12:7,8a

SPOKE AGAINST

33. What attitude should Miriam and Aaron have had toward Moses? 12:8b

**FYI:** "It was not that Moses was beyond criticism. Moses was not to be simply obeyed and praised, and never confronted or asked the tough questions. In fact, another relative of Moses, his father-in-law Jethro, did confront Moses and ask him the tough questions and he was greatly used of God in doing so ([Exodus 18:12-24](#))... Leaders in the house of God must make themselves accountable, and open to criticism and questioning - but need not make themselves quiet targets for those whose criticism is...false and self-motivated." - David Guzik

34. What does Aaron's reaction to Miriam's leprosy reveal about his heart? 12:11,12 (*Since Miriam's name in 12:1 is listed first, she is probably the first or principal accuser.*)

- How was this response different from Aaron's earlier one in Exodus 32:22-24?

35. How did Moses respond to Aaron and Miriam's trouble? 12:13 (What would you say about the challenges that faced Moses' leadership even after Sinai?)

36. Underline the instructions that are given in the following verses about how we should handle insults or mistreatment.

- Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you. NIV
- 1 Thessalonians 5:15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people. NASU
- Romans 12:17,21 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody...21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. NIV
- 1 Peter 3:9 not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. NAS

37. Why would a seven-day wait be important for all? 12:14,15

**FYI:** "We are not told what might provoke a father to **spit** in the face of his daughter, but it would have had to be something quite shameful. The incident at hand was not trivial, but God's grace was abundant." - The Nelson Study Bible (251)

"God did in fact heal Miriam. If she were still a leper, she would not have been allowed to remain in the camp of Israel. Yet, God allowed her to live with the outward display of her inward heart for seven days - and allowed the whole nation to know it." - David Guzik [See Leviticus 13:45,46; 14:8]

**Applying the Word:** *Do you remember ever being unjustly criticized for something? How did that feel? How did you respond?*