

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

Graves of Greediness (Numbers 11:1-35)

At Mt. Sinai...

Year One:

- 15th of first month – leave Egypt
- Third month – arrive at Mt. Sinai
- Third to the twelfth month – Law and tabernacle

Year Two:

- 1st of first month – erected the tabernacle
- First Month – consecrated priests, altar, Levites; Passover
- 1st of second month – census
- 20th of second month – leave Mt Sinai!

Numbers 11-25

1 Corinthians 10:1-12

...Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness.

Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved...

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages have come.

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

Numbers 11-25

Overarching Lesson

➤ *Take heed, lest you fall!*

- Beware of an evil heart of unbelief in the midst of great knowledge of God
- Beware of being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin and not holding fast to Christ until the end

Murmurings & Rebellion

Numbers 11:1-3

- Murmuring over “adversity”

Numbers 11:4-9

- Desire for meat
- Longing for Egypt
- Despising of “manna”

Murmurings & Rebellion

Numbers 11:10-34

- The people’s actions were a rejection of the Lord
- The Lord demonstrated His power by providing in one instance more than enough meat
- The Lord struck the people with a severe plague – the “graves of greediness”

Murmurings & Rebellion

Lessons

1. Warning: *do not crave evil things*

- Beware of grumbling
- Beware of greed
- Beware of envying the wicked
- Beware of despising the Lord's provision
- Beware of becoming accustomed to grace
- Beware of losing sight of the reward

Murmurings & Rebellion

Lessons

2. Encouragement: *necessity of the wilderness*

➤ Deuteronomy 8:1-17

- Adversity is designed by God to test and reveal the nature of our faith
- Adversity is designed by God to humble us, remove self-reliance and make us dependent on Him