

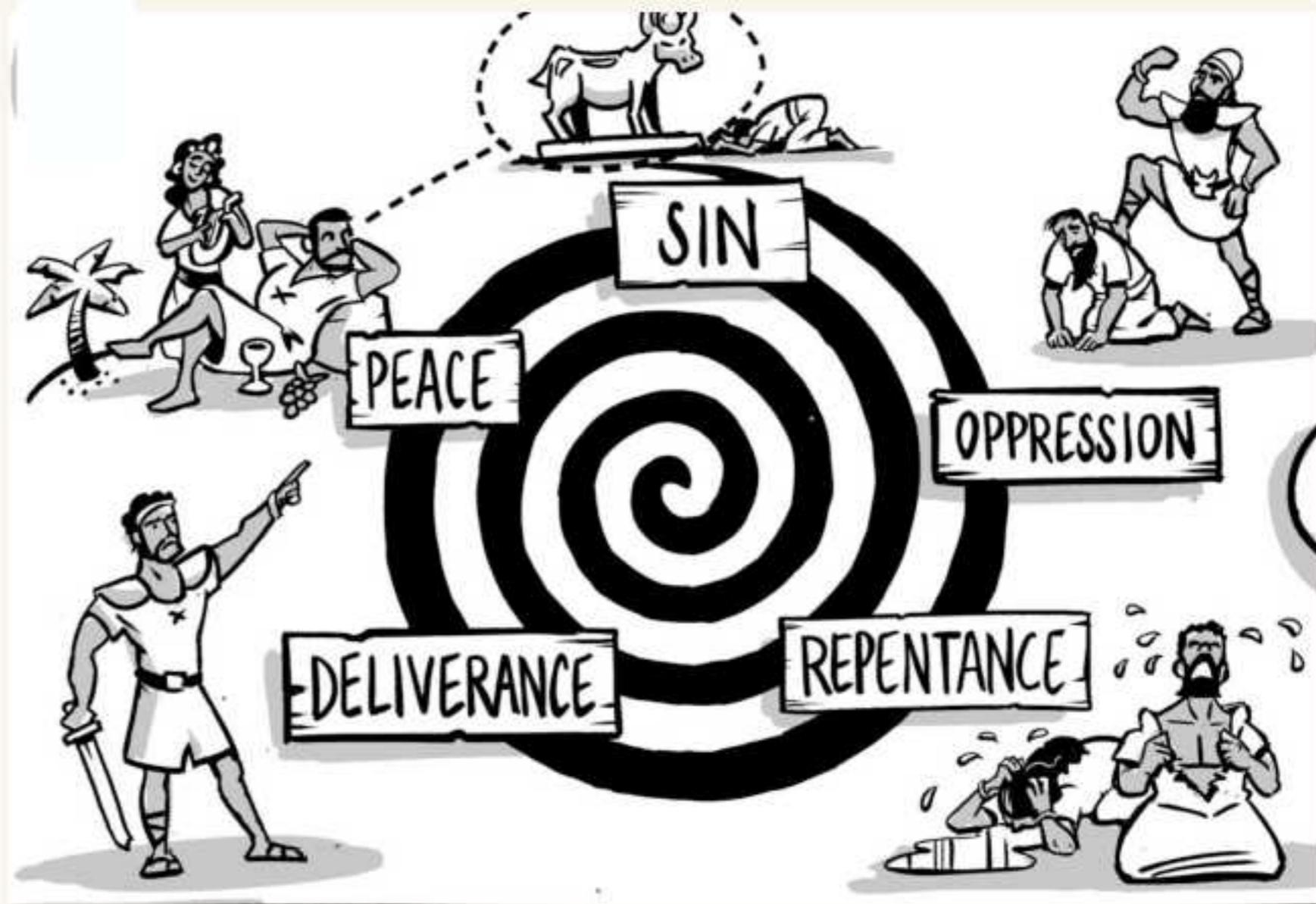
“In the Wilderness”

***“The Soul’s Journey to Contentment and
Peace (Numbers 11-12)”***



New Baptist Church, May 23, 2021

The Deuteronomomic Cycle of the Old Testament



Numbers 11:1-2. "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.

Complaining is an action that reveals what is happening in the heart.



Complaint 1 - Numbers 11:4-6, 18,

31-34

Numbers 11:4 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.” ... “¹⁸ ...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.**”

The Lord Responds

Complaint 1 - Numbers 11:4-6, 18,

31-34 The Lord Responds

(God gives them meat) 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.

(God gives them Egypt) 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

Complaint 1 - Numbers 11:4-6, 18, 31-34

The Cause of Discontent

- A False Memory of the past - “We remember the fish...” “It was better for us in Egypt”
- Failure to live by the very real hope of God’s promises.

Complaint 2 - Numbers 11:10-15

11:10 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.”

Complaint 2 - Numbers 11:10-15

The Lord Responds

- **The Lord encourages Moses and tells him that He (the Lord) will provide.** 11:18 And say to the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow, and you shall eat meat 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.”**
- **The Lord cares for Moses -** 11:16 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. 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.

Complaint 2 - Numbers 11:10-15

The difference between Discontent and Depression

- **Discontentment** says, “Lord, I do not like where you are taking me. I do not like your plan for my life. I do not like where you have placed me.”
- **Depression** says, “Lord I need your strength for the journey I am on. I need your strength to do what you have called me to do.”

- **Discontentment** says, “Lord you do not care for me, you have overlooked me, you do not know my needs.”
- **Depression** says, “Lord, I need you.”

- **Discontentment** says, “Lord, I am unhappy with my life.”
- **Depression** says, “Lord, fill me with the joy of your presence.”

- **Discontentment** says, “Lord, I need you to do something for me in order for me to be happy and content.”
- **Depression** says, “Lord, I need you, it is you that I long for and it is you alone that brings contentment to my soul.”

Complaint 3 - Numbers 12:1-16

Numbers 12:1 “Miriam and Aaron **spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married**, for he had married a Cushite woman. 2 And they said, **“Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?”** And the LORD heard it.”

The Lord Responds

Complaint 3 - Numbers 12:1-16

The Lord Responds

4 And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.” And the three of them came out. 5 And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. 6 And he said, “Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. 7 Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. **Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”**

Complaint 3 - Numbers 12:1-16

The Lord Responds

10 When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. 11 And Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord, do not punish us because we have done foolishly and have sinned. 12 Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother’s womb.” 13 And Moses cried to the LORD, “O God, please heal her—please.”

Complaint 3 - Numbers 12:1-16

- If you are obedient to where the Lord has placed you. And someone is attacking you, trying to tear you down, trying to discourage you; know this, the Lord will fight for you. He will affirm his calling upon your life, and he will defend you.
- *If you are a person who is tearing another person down to advantage yourself – be warned; how you attack another is going to be rendered unto you. Jesus describes this poetic justice in **Luke 6:37-38**, “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; 38 give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure, you use it will be measured back to you.”*

Numbers 11:29

**““Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets,
that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”**



**Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with
the Holy Spirit.”**

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