

**THE WILDERNESS JOURNEY**  
**by Pastor Richard H. Jones**

**III. THE JOURNEY OF THE ISRAELITES FROM MT. SINAI  
TO KADESH (Num. 10:11,12; 33:16-36)**

**A. THE ISRAELITES DEPARTED FROM MT. SINAI AND ENCAMPED AT KIBROTH-HATTA AVAH AND THEN HAZEROTH (Num. 10:11,12; 33:16,17).**

1. The events which occurred at Kibroth-Hattaavah (Num. 11:4-35).

- a. At their first encampment, after leaving Mt. Sinai, some of the Israelites started complaining. This made the Lord angry and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed them (Num. 11:1-3).
- b. Also at Kibroth-Hattaavah the mixed multitude, who had come out of Egypt with the Israelites, became dissatisfied with the manna which God was providing (Num. 11:4-6). This mixed multitude may have been those intermarried with the Israelites or maybe they were those caught up in the things that God was doing with His people, but they were not the children of Israel. When these started lusting after the things of Egypt and despising the manna and seasoning it, and crying out for meat, God gave them quail, which they greedily consumed, and smote them with a devastating plague (Num. 11:6-33). The meaning of this place of encampment says it all. Kibroth-Hattaavah means "graves of lust."

2. The event which occurred at Hazeroth (Num. 11:35-12:16).

At this second encampment after leaving Sinai, Miriam, Moses' sister, and Aaron murmured against Moses because he had married a Cushite woman. This resulted in Miriam being struck with leprosy but God healed her because of Moses' intercession.

3. Some applications we can make from these events.

- a. First of all, we can learn from what happened at Kibroth-Hattaavah that God is displeased with those who display a complaining and grumbling kind of attitude. Such an attitude shows dissatisfaction with what God has provided for us or that is a part of God's plan for us at a particular time. We are exhorted to be grateful and content with the portion that God gives to us (I Thess 5:18; Heb. 13:5).
- b. There's a great lesson for us to learn concerning our contentment with the manna. So many today are dissatisfied with the manna of God's Word. They want something besides the manna or they want the manna plus something else. They're not content to feast on the Word of God for the nourishment of their souls. They want what appeals to the lusts of the flesh like the mixed multitude desired.
- c. Notice while it may be argued that Moses disobeyed the Lord in marrying outside the Israelites, there is a great lesson to be learned from Moses' standpoint as well as from those who murmured against him. From Moses' standpoint, we notice that He was

meeK and let the Lord handle those who were against him. From the standpoint of those against Moses, we can see an example of what happens to those who touch the Lord's anointed. David recognized this principle and refused to raise his hand against Saul, even though Saul was being disobedient to the Lord (I Sam. 26:7-11; II Sam. 1:13-16).

**B. THEN THE ISRAELITES DEPARTED FROM HAZEROTH AND CAME TO KADESH-BARNEA AFTER SOME EIGHTEEN ENCAMPMENTS ALONG THE WAY (Num. 12:16,26; 33:18-36).**

1. Some things about this particular place.

Kadesh-barnea means "sacred desert of wandering." It was located in the wilderness of Zin (Num. 33:36).

2. The events which occurred at Kadesh-barnea.

- a. Firstly, from this place Moses sent 12 spies to search out the land of Canaan. When they returned 10 of them brought back an evil report that caused the people to murmur against Moses and Aaron. They even made a captain to lead them back to Egypt (Num. 14:1-10).
- b. Secondly, the murmuring and unbelief on the part of the Israelites led the Lord to pronounce judgment upon them. All those 20 years and older would die in the wilderness and not be able to enter the land of promise (Num. 14:11-37).
- c. Thirdly, we see some who rebelled in unbelief and refused to go up, had a change of mind and presumed to go up later but they were smitten by the Amalekites (Num. 14:39-45).

3. Some applications we can made from these events.

- a. First, we can see why many of the Israelites did not enter into the promised land at this time but perished in the wilderness. It was because of their own unbelief or failure to trust God and to take the opportunity He was giving them. For the same reason multitudes will never enter heaven. They refuse to take God at His Word and believe what He says.
- b. Secondly, there's a lesson for people to learn about taking the opportunity that God offers when He offers it. Many imagine they can do business with God when they want to (Heb. 3:7-19).