

# Our Giving God

## Possessing an Attitude of Gratitude

### Introduction: Overview of Numbers

The children of Israel were to learn that ...

- 1) They must trust God and not humans in a crisis.
- 2) God will supply every need that they have.

*Potentially*, Israel had everything they needed to fulfill God's Plan for their lives at that moment.

*Realistically*, Israel did not receive everything they needed to fulfill God's Plan for their lives at that moment.

### Why? They Possessed an Attitude of Ingratitude

*Observations:*

- 1) Our tendency to sin is greater at certain times than at others.
- 2) God's discipline is related to our development.
- 3) A godly leader saved the people from destruction.

*Israel possessed an attitude that ... :*

- 1) Was unaffected by God's discipline.
- 2) Was unappreciative of God's benefits.

*Israel was out of Egypt, but had not yet truly been delivered.  
Their bodies were free, but their spirits were still in bondage.*

- 3) Soon forgot the past problems.
- 4) Was insensitive to their calling.

## The Truth About a Complaining Spirit

- 1) A Complaining Spirit is contagious. v. 4
- 2) A Complaining Spirit has a selective memory. v. 5  
*Dissatisfaction comes when our attention shifts from what we have to what we don't have.*
- 3) A Complaining Spirit is not satisfied with what's available. v. 6  
*Israel allowed one loss to keep them from rejoicing over many gains.*
- 4) A Complaining Spirit wants to be heard by others. v. 10  
*The difference between a concerned person and a complaining person:*  
Concerned Person — Expresses their view to the right person and then leaves it.  
Complaining Person — Expresses their view to every person and never leaves it.
- 5) A Complaining Spirit can cause the leader to sin. v. 10-15  
*Moses forgot his role as a leader and because of the pressure he felt from the people, he too began to complain.*

### Role of a leader:

*Moses' displeasure was different than God's:*

- God's displeasure — over their ungratefulness toward Him.
- Moses' displeasure — over the people complaining to Him.

*Moses' complaining was different than the people's:*

- Moses — complained to God.
- People — complained about God.
- Moses — complained to God alone.
- People — complained about God to others.

- 6) It has its roots in self-centredness v. 16-23, 31-32
- 7) A Complaining Spirit will bring the wrath of God v. 33,34

Closing Thoughts: A. God gives graciously.

B. God is unhappy when we complain.

C. God sometimes gives us what we don't need.

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- Moses — complained to God \_\_\_\_\_.
- People — complained about God to \_\_\_\_\_.

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- 7) A Complaining Spirit will bring the \_\_\_\_\_ of God v. 33,34

Closing Thoughts: A. God gives \_\_\_\_\_.  
B. God is unhappy when we complain.  
C. God sometimes gives us what we don't \_\_\_\_\_.