

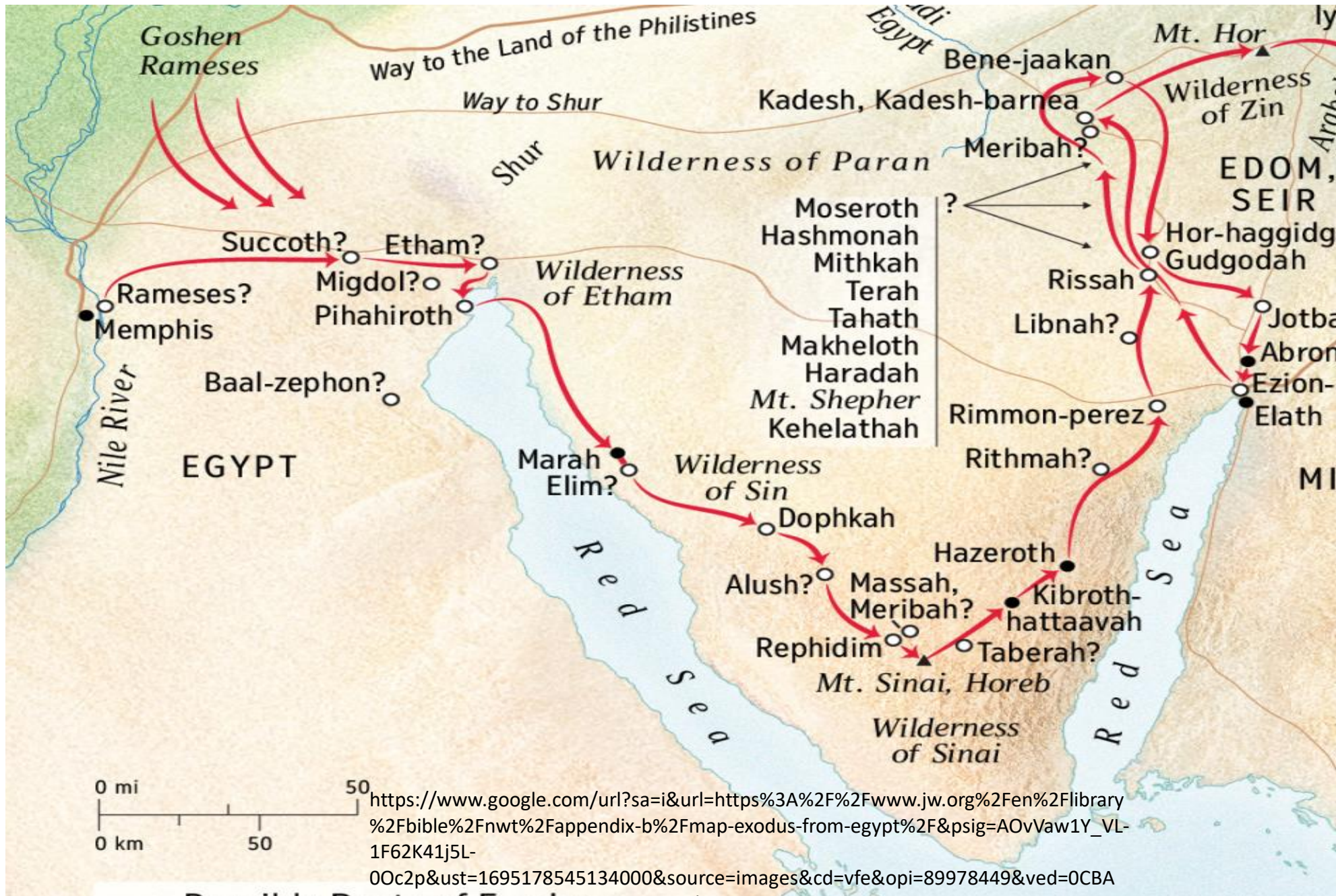


Spiritual Lessons from the Life of Moses

Lesson 20 -
Grumbling and
rebellion

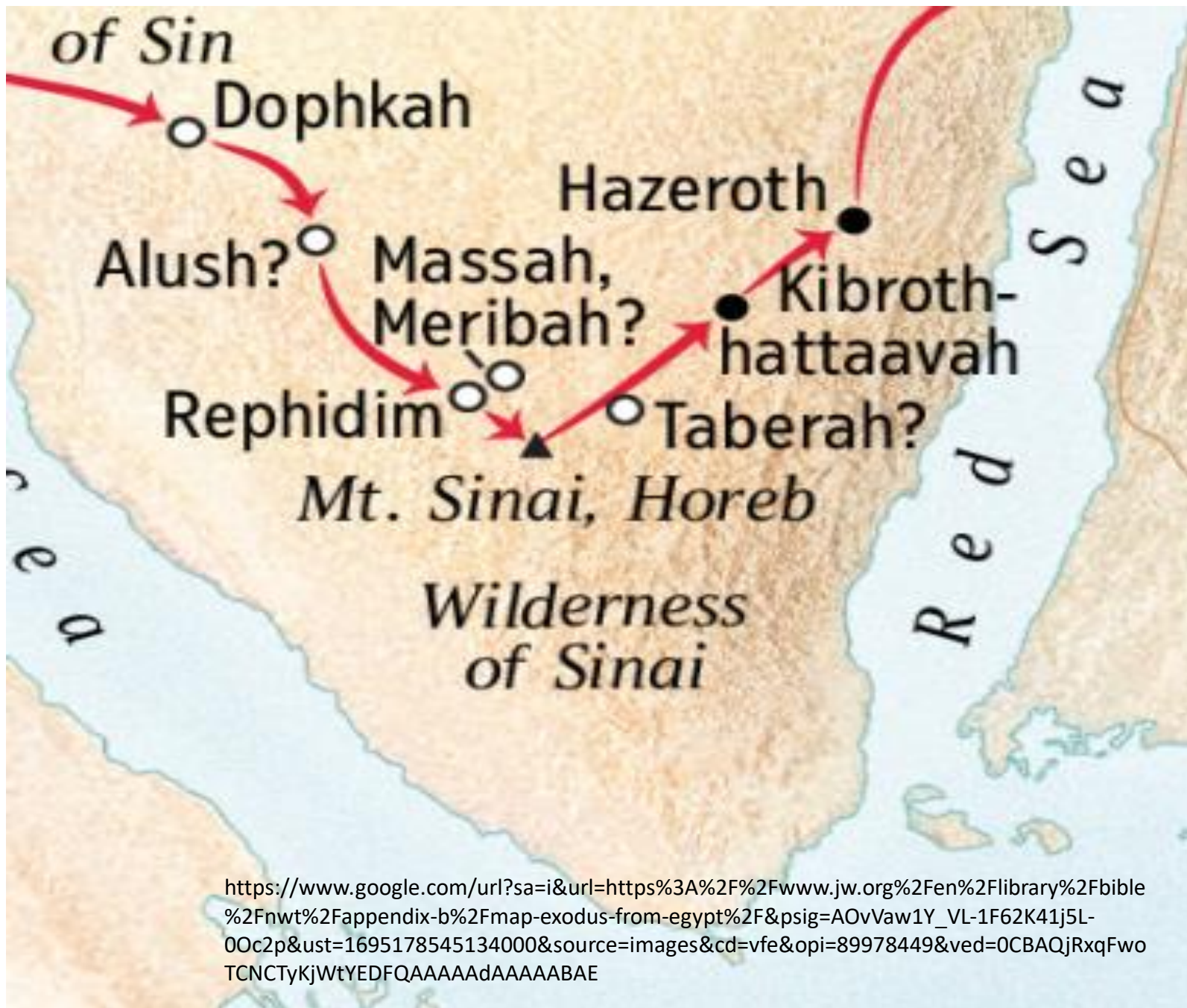
Num 11, 12

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(1) Background: The Israelites stayed for about 1 year in Mt Sinai. They started moving out.

(2) The year was about 1445 BC



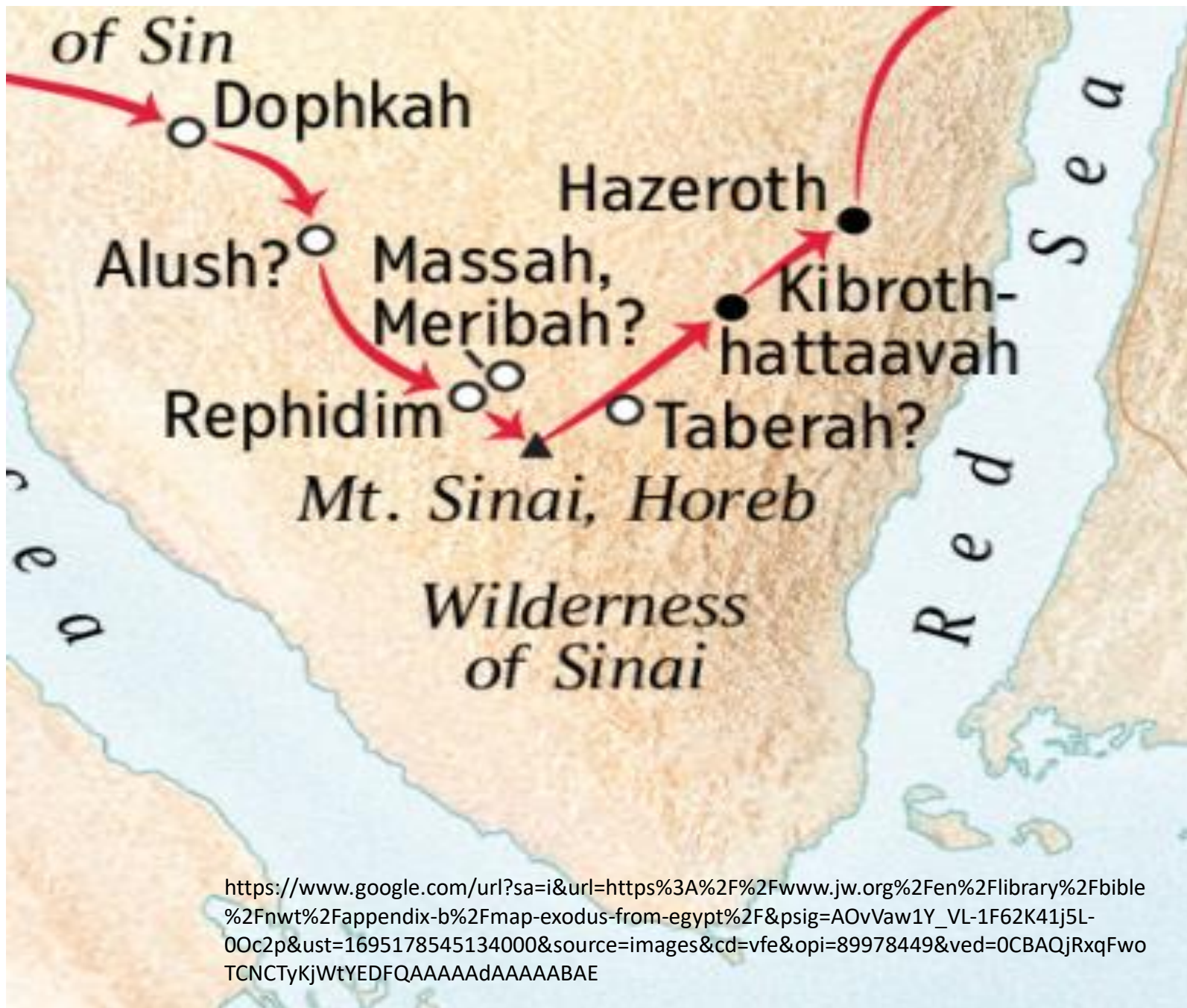
Num 11:1-3

(3) The Israelites complained loudly about their hardship. The Lord heard it.

(4) This aroused the anger of the Lord.

(5) Fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed outskirts of the camp.

(6) The place was called Taberah meaning 'burning'.



(7) The Israelites moved on. They started lusting for food.

(8) Read the Israelites grumbling in Num 11: 4-10.

(9) Moses was angry and protested to the Lord in Num 11:11-15.

(10) The Lord instructed Moses to bring 70 elders who would also bear part of Moses' burden for the people. Num 11-16-17.

“Lusting” for food means craving or intense desire for specific food.



Numbers 11:31-35

The Lord sent a wind that brought quail from the sea and let them fall into the camp and all around it.

So, the people caught and killed quail all that day and through the night and all the next day too.

But as everyone began eating the meat, the anger of the Lord rose against the people and He killed large numbers of them with a plague. So the name of that place was called Kibroth-hattaavah, 'The Place of the Graves Caused by Lust' ...



(11) The Israelites moved on to Hazeroth.

(12) Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses. (Num 12:1-2)

(13) The Lord judged Miriam. She became leprous because of her sin (Num 12:5-10)



Miriam was
punished for her
jealousy of Moses

Numbers 12:1-10

(14) Spiritual Lessons

(a) At Taberah, the Israelites complained and grumbled of hardship.

Naturally, moving in the wilderness has much hardship:

- (i) Long journey
- (ii) Exposure to the heat and cold
- (iii) Exhaustion
- (iv) Etc.

They did not wish to move on and complained loudly and grumbled. God sent fire to burn them.

God had delivered them from slavery and death from the pursuing Egyptian. Yet, they were ungrateful and complained and grumbled.

- Are we likewise ungrateful and have complained and grumbled about our own hardships?
- Remember:
- How God has healed us of past illnesses
- How God has given us an income for our livelihood and support for the family
- How God has blessed us with a peaceful country and freedom of worship?
- How God resolved our troubles and conflicts in the past
- Etc...

- God rescued the Israelites from Egypt. It was His will to bring them back to Canaan through the route of the Exodus for a purpose. Therefore, they should bear the hardship of the journey.
- Similarly, if God's will is for us to bear the present 'hardship' in our life, then we will bear, it knowing that God will not test us beyond our ability.
1 Cor 10:13



1 Cor 10:13 –

*There hath no temptation taken you
but such as is common to man:*

*but God is faithful, who will not suffer
you to be tempted above that ye are
able;*

*but will with the temptation also
make a way to escape, that ye may be
able to bear it.*

(b) Craving at Kibroth-hattaavah

The Israelites complained and grumbled at having to eat manna only. There was no meat. They already had food (manna), but were craving (an intense desire) for meat.

God gave them quails but struck them with a plague.

Similarly, do we also crave? Are we dissatisfied and are craving for more, such as:

- Job hopping for more pay
- Doubtful investments
- Material goods (brand-name bags, shoes, clothes etc)
- Eating without any limit (gluttony)

Colossians 3:5:

⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

God detests idolatry.

(c) Miriam and Aaron's rebellion against Moses at Hazeroth

Moses was appointed by God to lead the Israelites to Canaan. Miriam and Aaron challenged Moses' leadership. Num 12:2. They claimed to be equal in authority with Moses.

God judged Miriam and she was struck with leprosy.

“Miriam was the instigator, from the fact that her name stands conspicuously first [Numbers 12:1](#), and that the punishment [Numbers 12:10](#) fell on her alone.” (Barnes' Notes on the Bible)

Miriam had to be shut outside the camp for 7 days.
The Exodus journey was thus delayed.

Similarly, we must not be envious/ jealous (James 3:14-16, Proverbs 14:30, 1 Cor 13:4):

- People who are placed in a higher authority than us (spiritual and secular)
- People who are 'better' than us (more successful, popular, wealthier etc)

How to overcome envy and jealousy:

(1) Rejoice with those who are blessed by God.

Romans 12:15: Rejoice with them that do rejoice.

(2) Be content with what God has given you.

1 Timothy 6:6-19: But godliness with contentment is great gain.

(3) We are all personally accountable to God for our thought, attitude and actions.

Rom

14:12: So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.



The Israelites' disobedience and punishment