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If Only We Had Died by the LORD's Hand in Egypt 16: 1-3

If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt DIG: Given the miraculous departure from Egypt, how do you account for the people complaining so soon? If they hadn't complained, would ADONAI have heard them? Why or why not? What does that tell you about the relationship with God?

REFLECT: What does this passage teach us about the authority of Moses and God? About stress? Obedience? Trust? Who or what usually gets the brunt of your frustration? Why? One of the seven things that are detestable to God is a person who stirs up dissension among other believers (Proverbs 6:16-19). How are you doing?

And the people of Isra'el arrived at Dophkah after a one-month journey. **The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt (16:1). They** had been on **their** journey from **Egypt** for one full month **(12:2, 6, 29, 31).** No sooner had **they** set up **their** tents than **they** began to **grumble** about being hungry. **In the desert the whole community grumbled to Moses and Aaron (16:2).** This becomes a familiar pattern. **God** performs miracles on behalf of **the Israelites**, and **their** reaction is to **grumble**.



Again they failed their test of faith. **They grumbled** and regretted ever leaving **Egypt**. Like those with Stockholm Syndrome, they celebrated their captors rather than **ADONAI**, crying: **If only we had died by ADONAI's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat, ate all the food we wanted** like fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks onions and garlic **(Numbers 11:5). They** continued to lay it on thick by saying: **But you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death (16:3). They** were doing more **grumbling** in **the Desert of Sin** than **they** did under Pharaoh! When people wish themselves back to **Egypt** (a life of worldliness and sin), they forget both the bitterness of the old life and the blessings of the new.[300] Two points here. First, from all the accounts of **their** life **in Egypt**, we never get the impression that **they** had plenty enough to eat, so they were really exaggerating. And secondly, it wasn't **Moses and Aaron** that led them **out of Egypt**. It was **God**. And **He** was about to graciously answer **their grumbling** with a gift from heaven.

Are we not like the people of **Isra'el**? We often find ourselves in difficult situations and we grow anxious and look back, full of regrets and wish things had turned out differently. But we need to understand that **Ha'Shem** will test us as **He** tested **Isra'el**. These trials may have great benefits for us as believers, such as increasing our trust and dependence upon **God**, or bringing us back to the godly way of living and thinking, or many other reasons. So let us not rebel when things get difficult, but let us go to **ADONAI** in prayer and serve **Him** with all our hearts, souls and minds.[301]