

Israel complained 14 times

When the eye wanders back toward the world/Egypt, the heart follows the eye, and the feet follow the heart. We forget, at such moments, what the world was to us when we were in it and of it. We forget what toil and slavery, what misery and degradation, we found in the service of sin and of Satan, and think only of the gratification and ease, the freedom from those painful exercises, conflicts, and anxieties which attend upon the wilderness path of God's people. - *C. H. Mackintosh, Irish preacher, 1882*

Someone said, 'It took days to get Israel out of Egypt, but it took 40 years to get Egypt out of Israel!

#1 – The people complained to Moses that because of Him and His talk of a promise land, Pharaoh made things worse for them – **Exodus 5:1-22**

#2 – The people complained and said to Moses “let us alone” – **Exodus 14:11-12**

#3 – The people complained about the bitter water – **Exodus 15:22**

#4 – The people complained about being hungry; God gives them Manna – **Exodus 16:1-4**

#5 – The people complained about being thirsty – **Exodus 17:1-4**

After this, Moses has to intercede with God on behalf of the people

#6 – The people forsake the Lord. The Lord orders the Levites to kill 3000 people by the sword, because they worshipped the golden calf. – **Exodus 32:28**

This is the 1st time Moses intercedes for the people – **Exodus 32:10-12**

#7 – The “mixed multitude” of the people complained about food – **Numbers 11** The Lord burns the outskirts of the camp – Moses wants to die – The Lord sends a very great plague v.33

#8 – Miriam and Aaron complain about Moses' leadership – The Lord curses Miriam with leprosy – **Numbers 12:1-12**

This is the 2nd time Moses intercedes for the people – **Numbers 12:13**

#9 – The people complained about how difficult it looked to conquer the giants in the land so they refused to enter the Promise Land. **Numbers 14:1-10**

#10 – The people complained again and wanted to kill Moses – they try to select another leader. The Lord seeks to destroy the people with pestilence – **Numbers 14:10**

Numbers 14:12 (we know this is the tenth time because here God says they tested Him

these 10 times in verse 22) The Lord kills the 10 spies by the plague – **Numbers 14:37**

This is the 3rd time Moses intercedes for the people.

#11 – The key leaders rebel against Moses (Korah's Rebellion) and say, “you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness” – **Numbers 16** – God opens the earth and swallows the offenders

#12 – The people complained again and they accuse Moses of killing God’s people – **Numbers 16:41**

This is the 5th time Moses intercedes for the people – **Numbers 16:45-49** – God kills 14,700 people.

#13 – The people contended with Moses again because of no water – Moses gets angry **Numbers 20:1-5** and strikes the rock.

#14 – The people complained against God and Moses – **Numbers 21:4-5** – God sends fiery serpents to bite them. God finally gives them a taste of their own hateful medicine. They were to experience the same painful poison they were dishing out. And the depth of their own sin nature and true spiritual condition:

- **Jeremiah 17:9** - "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings."

But He also shows them the solution - Christ lifted up on the cross.

- **John 3:14-15** - "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. "

The people disobeyed several times after this in the wilderness but they never again complained.

- **1 Corinthians 10:1-12** - "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ,

as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

See <https://onelordonebody.com/2014/02/27/how-israel-complaining-14-times-mirrors-your-christian-journey/>