

BACKGROUND

1. No question about it. God had already done great things for Israel (1:1-10:10). Look at those chapters and you will say: what a God of grace!
2. The move is on from Sinai to Moab (10:11-28). God, not Hobab, leads the people--all five million of them (10:29-36).
3. Some unidentified complaint comes from Israel against God. He responds with fire. Moses prayed and that quenched God's anger (11:1-3).
4. Israel's stomachs complained against God (plus Moses) (11:4-9). Moses got upset and cried to God with complaints (11:10-15). Moses wanted out! He was sick and tired of Israel and his own appointment as chief of staff.
5. God answers both Moses and the nation. Their grumbling must stop. Here is God's strategy.

1. STRATEGY #1--Division of Responsibility

vv. 16, 17, 24-30

a. Selection of elders vv. 16, 17a

Moses is told to get 70 men whom he knew of the older (!) men who were leaders. They are to be brought to the tabernacle. There God would talk with them about the problem. The Hebrew says these men were to "stand firm" with Moses (v. 16). God would speak there with Moses (!), not the 70. He is still God's man (cf. 12:8).

b. Equipping of Elders vv. 17, 24, 25.

Truly it cannot mean that Moses now had less of the Holy Spirit. Rather, that same Spirit endued these men to support Moses. This is fantastic. The Spirit of God is sufficient for all who will allow Him room! Oh how great is our God. There at the tabernacle God met 71 men! They gave evidence of God's Spirit upon them. Apparently it was a single evidence that God had equipped them for the text reads "they did not add" (v. 25).

NOTE: Instances of God's equipping in O.T. for 1) craftsmanship (Ex. 31:3. 2) Military skill (Judges 6:34; 11:29; 13:25). 3) Dream interpretation (Gen. 41:38).

c. Extension of elders vv. 26-30.

Eldad means "God has loved" and Medad is also related to "love." These men were "enrolled" i.e. they satisfied the expectations of God (v. 16). They did not, however, appear at the tabernacle. No reason

is given for this failure. Whatever, they demonstrated God's power was upon them (v. 26, 27). A young boy (v. 27) told Joshua (v. 28) who in turn asked Moses to stop Eldad and Medad. He refused on two grounds: 1) He was not threatened personally (v. 29) and 2) he was pleased that others were moved by God's Spirit. Caution: Error is not the issue here. Nor is usurpation of authority from Moses. All who give evidence of the Spirit's work are to be embraced (1 Cor. 11:3) and desired (v. 29).

2. STRATEGY #2--Satisfaction of need

vv. 18-23, 31--34

a. God's Promise vv. 18-20, 23

Since Israel complained about a simple diet, God promised variety. In this case "meat" (v. 18). There would be enough for a month in which one could "eat all you want" (a modern smorgasbord!). This would be because Israel had complained about God's fast food "manna." Moreover, they preferred Egypt to God's kitchen in the wilderness.

b. Moses' Problem vv. 21-23

As previously (10:29), Moses could not logistically understand God's promise. It was just "too way out." Where were the fish shops or butcher shops in the wilderness (v. 22). God has one simple answer for Moses--the Lord is able. His Word is all you need (cf. Psa. 23:1).

c. Israel's Provision vv. 31-34

This is an enormous miracle. Here is food piled up to three feet. The quails were so numerous and spread out that it would take two days to walk the distance of their mass. Incredibly, no one took less than 40-60 bushels. Some were spread out to dry and others eaten (vv. 32, 33). God judged Israel and many died (vv. 33, 34).

REMEMBER Yes, God does forget. However, this event brought a new name to the place: KIBROTH-HATTA AVAH meaning "graves of craving." Watch: God expects full trust.

*vs 35 - journeyed = went forth
God was in control !!*