

BEMOANED, BEMOANING, COMPLAIN, COMPLAINED, COMPLAINERS, COMPLAINING, COMPLAINT, COMPLAINTS, WHINED

When God confronted Cain about murdering his brother, Cain complained that God was **punishing** him too much.

- **Genesis 4:13:** "And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear."

When God confronted Cain about murdering his brother, Cain **complained** that God was going to hide His face from him. (Yet Cain never repented or showed remorse for his sin.)

- **Genesis 4:13-14:** "And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me."

When God confronted Cain about murdering his brother, Cain **complained** that he was going to be a fugitive and a vagabond.

- **Genesis 4:13-14:** "And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from

thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me."

When God confronted Cain about murdering his brother, Cain **complained** that whoever found him would kill him. (It seems Cain believed it was entirely appropriate for him to murder other people, but he didn't want to be murdered himself.)

- **Genesis 4:13-14:** "And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me."

As soon as God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, they began **complaining**. (If they wanted food they could have prayed that God would provide, instead of accusing Moses of wanting to murder them.)

- **Exodus 16:3:** "And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

When the Israelites were in the wilderness of Sin and **complained** that they had no food, Moses and Aaron told them that they had murmured against God.

- **Exodus 16:7:** "And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings

against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us?"

When the Israelites **complained** in the wilderness, God sent His fire among them and burned them alive.

- **Numbers 11:1**: "And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp."

The place where God burned people alive for **complaining** was called "Taberah" (which seems to mean "burning").

- **Numbers 11:3**: "And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them."

When the Israelites wanted meat, they didn't ask God to provide. Instead they **complained**.

- **Numbers 11:4**: "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?"

While God was bringing the Israelites to the promised land, the Israelites **complained** that the food they had in Egypt was better than what God provided for them in the wilderness. (In other words, the Israelites weren't grateful for the manna that God miraculously provided for them each day. Instead they wanted to go back to Egypt, where their children were taken away from them and murdered.)

- **Numbers 11:5-6:** "We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes."

Shortly after God burned people alive for **complaining**, the entire nation of Israel decided to complain about the manna that God was giving them each day. (They had learned absolutely nothing.)

- **Numbers 11:10:** "Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased."

When God saw the Israelites **complain** about the manna He provided them, He became greatly angry.

- **Numbers 11:10:** "Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased."

When the Israelites **complained** about the food God was miraculously providing to them each day, Moses decided that was the right time to for him complain about the Israelites.

- **Numbers 11:11:** "And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?"

When Moses **complained** that taking care of Israel was too heavy a responsibility for him, God provided 70 elders to help him.

- **Numbers 11:16-17:** "And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone."

God heard the Israelites **complain** that their life was better in Egypt (where they were slaves, and their children were taken away from them and murdered).

- **Numbers 11:18:** "And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat."

After the Israelites **complained** about not having meat, God provided them with so many quails that they stacked up two cubits high (about three feet). The quails surrounded the camp for a distance of around *ten to twenty miles*.

- **Numbers 11:31:** "And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the

earth."

When God provided quails for the Israelites, they didn't repent of **complaining**. Instead they just started eating it (without even giving thanks first).

- **Numbers 11:33:** "And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague."

Once the Israelites defeated the Amorite armies, no one spoke against the Israelites. (It seems the Gibeonites were satisfied with the way that Israel saved them, and had no **complaints**.)

- **Joshua 10:20-21:** " And it came to pass, when Joshua and the children of Israel had made an end of slaying them with a very great slaughter, till they were consumed, that the rest which remained of them entered into fenced cities. And all the people returned to the camp to Joshua at Makkedah in peace: none moved his tongue against any of the children of Israel."

The reason the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh went to Joshua after they were given territory in Canaan was to **complain** that they weren't given enough land.

- **Joshua 17:14:** "And the children of Joseph spake unto Joshua, saying, Why hast thou given me but one lot and one portion to inherit, seeing I am a great people, forasmuch as the LORD hath blessed me hitherto?"

When the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh **complained** that they wanted more land, Joshua told them to go conquer the wood country.

- **Joshua 17:15:** "And Joshua answered them, If thou be a great people, then get thee up to the wood country, and cut down for thyself there in the land of the Perizzites and of the giants, if mount Ephraim be too narrow for thee."

The tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh **complained** that they didn't want to conquer the wood country, because the Canaanites who lived there had chariots of iron. (In other words, they wanted free land that they didn't have to do anything to obtain.)

- **Joshua 17:16:** "And the children of Joseph said, The hill is not enough for us: and all the Canaanites that dwell in the land of the valley have chariots of iron, both they who are of Bethshean and her towns, and they who are of the valley of Jezreel."

When the tribe of Ephraim and Manasseh **complained** that they didn't want to conquer the wood country, Joshua told them that they had the power to conquer it (if they would rise up and do it).

- **Joshua 17:17-18:** "And Joshua spake unto the house of Joseph, even to Ephraim and to Manasseh, saying, Thou art a great people, and hast great power: thou shalt not have one lot only: But the mountain shall be thine; for it is a wood, and thou shalt cut it down: and the outgoings of it shall be thine: for thou shalt drive out the Canaanites, though they have iron chariots, and though they be strong."

When Benjamites kidnapped women from Shiloh who went there to worship God, and their fathers **complained** about that outrageous act (which was punishable by death under the Mosaic Law), the Israelites planned on telling those fathers to get over it. (In those days the Israelites did whatever they wanted, instead of doing what was right in God's sight.)

- **Judges 21:21-22:** " And see, and, behold, if the daughters of Shiloh come out to dance in dances, then come ye out of the vineyards, and catch you every man his wife of the daughters of Shiloh, and go to the land of Benjamin. And it shall be, when their fathers or their brethren come unto us to complain, that we will say unto them, Be favourable unto them for our sakes: because we reserved not to each man his wife in the war: for ye did not give unto them at this time, that ye should be guilty."

Hannah told Eli that she was praying to God out of the abundance of her **complaint**. (Hannah had no children, and this fact had caused her a great deal of suffering.)

- **1 Samuel 1:16:** "Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto."

When David unjustly took away everything Mephibosheth owned on the basis of a single false accusation (which was a violation of the Mosaic Law, which required two witnesses), Mephibosheth said that since David had mercy on Saul's house he had no right to **complain**.

- **2 Samuel 19:28:** "For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy

servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king?"

During a siege of Samaria, a woman asked the king to help her because after she and another woman murdered her son and ate him, the other woman hid her son and didn't allow him to be killed and eaten as well. (In other words, she **complained** to the king in hopes that he would help her engage in the murder and cannibalism of children.)

- **2 Kings 6:28-29:** " And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow. So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son."

During the days of Nehemiah, some people **complained** that the wall around Jerusalem couldn't be rebuilt for various petty reasons. (These seem more like excuses than anything else, especially since they weren't raised until after the Jews learned that their enemies wanted to attack them to prevent the wall from being rebuilt.)

- **Nehemiah 4:10:** "And Judah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall."

Job told his friends that since he was going to die, he was going to **complain** about his life. (However, his affliction didn't kill him.)

- **Job 7:11:** "Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will

speaking in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul."

Job told Bildad that he didn't want to forget his **complaint**. (In other words, he *wanted* to be upset over his suffering. He wasn't trying to find peace in the midst of affliction.)

- **Job 9:27-28:** "If I say, I will forget my complaint, I will leave off my heaviness, and comfort myself: I am afraid of all my sorrows, I know that thou wilt not hold me innocent."

Job knew that he was **complaining**.

- **Job 10:1:** "My soul is weary of my life; I will leave my complaint upon myself; I will speak in the bitterness of my soul."

Job said that his **complaints** weren't directed at other people. (Instead they were directed at God, who he believed was responsible for all of his suffering.)

- **Job 21:4:** "As for me, is my complaint to man? and if it were so, why should not my spirit be troubled?"

Job said that he had **complained** bitterly.

- **Job 23:2:** "Even to day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning."

David referred to his prayer as a **complaint**. (He was upset because his enemies were persecuting him.)

- **Psalms 55:2-3:** "Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in

my complaint, and make a noise; Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me."

When Asaph was troubled, he poured out his **complaint** to God.

- **Psalm 77:3:** "I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah."

David said that when he was in a cave (hiding from Saul), he poured out his **complaint** before God.

- **Psalm 142:0, 2:** " Maschil of David; A Prayer when he was in the cave ... I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble."

Just as a pot has no right to **complain** about how the potter formed it, so we have no right to complain to God about how He formed us.

- **Isaiah 45:9:** "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?"

When Jeremiah **complained** about being commanded to buy a field when Jerusalem was being besieged by the Babylonians, God told him nothing was too hard for Him.

- **Jeremiah 32:25, 27:** " And thou hast said unto me, O Lord GOD, Buy thee the field for money, and take witnesses; for the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans. ... Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too

hard for me?"

People have no right to **complain** about the punishment God sends upon them for their sin. (Instead people should repent of their sins and turn to Him.)

- **Lamentations 3:39-40:** "Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD."

God asked the Jews to tell Him why they were upset with Him. What was their **complaint** against Him, that they had rejected Him to serve idols?

- **Micah 6:3:** "O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me."

When the Jews **complained** that God blessed the wicked and delivered them from trouble, God pointed to the final judgment to demonstrate that the wicked weren't as blessed as they seemed.

- **Malachi 3:18:** "Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."

In the parable of the laborers, the people who **complained** were those who agreed to work for a fixed salary. None of the people who received more than they deserved were upset, even though some worked more hours than others.

- **Matthew 20:11-12:** " And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, Saying,

These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day."

Jesus compared His generation to children, who **complained** that their friends didn't dance when they piped and didn't weep when they mourned. (In other words, nothing satisfied them.)

- **Luke 7:32:** "They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept."

When the Greek widows **complained** that they were being neglected, the disciples said they needed to remain focused on proclaiming the gospel. (That's why they appointed seven men to serve as deacons and take care of the needs of the church.)

- **Acts 6:1-3:** " And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."

The town clerk told the multitude that if Demetrius or any of the other silversmiths had a legal **complaint** against anyone, they should go to the deputies and handle it using the legal process. (In other words, mob justice against people who hadn't done anything wrong wasn't the answer.)

- **Acts 19:38:** "Wherefore if Demetrius, and the craftsmen which are with him, have a matter against any man, the law is open, and there are deputies: let them implead one another."

When Festus heard the case against Paul, the Jews came down from Jerusalem and laid many grievous **complaints** against Paul.

- **Acts 25:7:** "And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and grievous complaints against Paul, which they could not prove."

We have no right to **complain** about how God made us, or what He created us to be.

- **Romans 9:20:** "Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"

When the Hebrews who God freed from Egypt tempted Him (by **complaining** that they had been brought into the wilderness to be killed), they were actually tempting Christ.

- **1 Corinthians 10:9:** "Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents."

One of the reasons Paul didn't accept money from the Corinthian church was to keep others from finding an occasion to condemn him. Paul knew the church had enemies, and he wanted to make sure they couldn't raise a **complaint** against him.

- **2 Corinthians 11:12:** "But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off occasion from them which desire occasion; that wherein they glory, they may be found even as we."

Christians must not **complain**.

- **Philippians 2:14:** "Do all things without murmurings and disputings."

At the end of Paul's life when he was facing execution, he glorified God for the times when He had delivered him from persecution. He didn't **complain** that God wasn't delivering him this time, or express any bitterness about it.

- **2 Timothy 3:11:** "Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me."

It's good for us to cast our cares upon God. It's not wrong and it's not an act of **complaining**. Instead it's something God has told us to do.

- **1 Peter 5:7:** "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

The ungodly men who Jude warned against (who were the enemies of the church) were **complainers**.

- **Jude 1:16:** "These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage."