

Gratitude: Manna: 24-29, Numbers 21:6, Snakes; Hunger, Rebellion, Bitterness, Exodus 16:2

Damnans quod non intelligent: they condemn what they do not understand.

Unfortunately, this was the situation for the first generation of believers throughout the 40 years of the *Jornada* experience. Finally, the divine discipline for their lack of gratitude reached an intensified stage as the final year of testing approached. Continued grumblings caused God to assign a deadly but apropos natural element into His administration of divine discipline.

Numbers 21:5 - The people spoke against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food."

Numbers 21:6 - And the Lord sent poisonous snakes among the people and they struck the people so that many citizens of Israel died.

The strike of the venomous snake was apropos for a people whose souls were filled with the venom of ingratitude, bitterness, and arrogance. The believer who fails to orient to God's grace faces far more intensive exigencies from the *Jornada* of the Devil's world than does the unbeliever. The unbeliever faces eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. The believer faces a comparatively brief evaluation at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

C. Hunger, Rebellion, & Bitterness

Exodus 16:2 - And the entire congregation of Israelites rebelled against Moses and Arron in the *Jornada*.

The word which is translated "grumbled" in our English translations is the Hebrew verb *lûn* which means "to rebel against authority." Although on most occasions when this word is used it is directed against Moses and Aaron, it ultimately is directed against God.

The sin which is revealed by this rebellion is a failure of the people to trust in God and therefore, ingratitude is expressed for His grace, and bitterness for His testings.

Casual observation makes it clear that the adult members of the Jewish nation had facilitated wheel-tracks of antiauthority arrogance. Antiauthority arrogance always reacts under pressure by blaming leadership for problems. This antiauthority is often associated with the emotional sin of bitterness and is expressed through the three arrogant skills. When one is bitter, any love he might have is turned to hatred. Any happiness he may have enjoyed is converted into a lust to hurt and destroy.

The most typical expression of all these sins is the habitual practice of blaming others for one's own problems. When God's tests for blessing are misinterpreted as reasons to complain and gripe then it is obvious that the believer's gratitude gauge is at zero.

There is an absolute principle which emerges from this situation: the person who is bitter has destroyed any happiness he may have possessed.