

Psalm 106:13-18

The psalm for the **Numbers 32** Torah reading concerning Reuben and Gad.

Psalm 106:13-14 - "They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

This refers to their lusting after meat instead of manna:

- **Numbers 11:4** - "And the mixed 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?"

To forget God's miraculous works is to forget that He is able to take care of you. Self-seeking takes over then.

Like the request of the tribes of Reuben and Gad, they were only interested in themselves.

They didn't wait to seek the counsel of God through Moses before conceiving their plan.

Paul says their actions were recorded as a warning to us:

See **1 Corinthians 10:5-14**

- **1 Corinthians 10:11** - "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

Leanness of Soul

Psalm 106:15 - "And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul."

leanness = *râzeh* - to make thin; to cause to waste away; become emaciated, to destroy

A great picture - they ate quail, but were soul-starved.

- **Numbers 11:32-33** - "All that day and night, and all the next day, the people stayed up gathering the quail. No one gathered less than ten homers, and they spread them out all around the camp. But while the meat was still between their teeth, before it was chewed, the LORD's anger burned against the people, and the LORD struck them with a severe plague."

Jesus described those who "hear the word, but the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." (**Mark 4:18-19**)

Luke presents additional causes: "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your

hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." (**Luke 21:34**)

“overcharged” = *barynō* - weighed down

“surfeiting” = *kraipalē* - nausea and headache following debauched over-eating and drinking

The list could go on.

- **Mark 8:36** - "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

- **Amos 8:11** - "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD"

Jeremiah 17:5-6 - "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited."

Korah's Rebellion

Psalm 106:16-18 - "They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD. The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram. And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked."

Korah is not mentioned, maybe because the “sons of Korah” repented and became singers among the Levites.

Dathan and Abiram are mentioned because they are "sons of Reuben" -The subject of **Numbers 32**.

- **Numbers 16:1-2** - "Now Korah son of Izhar, the son of Kohath son of Levi, along with some Reubenites — Dathan and Abiram, sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth— conducted a rebellion against Moses, along with 250 men of Israel renowned as leaders of the congregation and representatives in the assembly"

In Deuteronomy, Moses calls for the Israelites to remember God's "miracles, and his acts":

- **Deuteronomy 11:6** - "And what he did unto Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their households, and their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel"

God sent fire to consume the two hundred and fifty men that had censers with "strange fire" of their own devising.

The message of this part of **Psalm 106** and the story of Reuben and Gad is a warning to not let anything prevent us from entering the Promised Land, the "rest," our spiritual inheritance.

Don't be tempted to stop short and suffer from "leanness of soul."