

# Rebels in the Desert

10 Rebellions against God in Numbers 11–25

1. **Numbers 11:1–3**  
People: complained of hardships  
God: sent fire among them  
Moses: prayed and the fire stopped.
2. **Numbers 11: 4–15, 18–23, 31–34**  
People: complained about manna and demanded meat  
God: provided meat (quail) till it “came out their noses”  
Moses: asked God what to do; told people what God said
3. **Numbers 12: 1–15**  
People: Miriam & Aaron complained Moses had Cushite wife  
God: gave Miriam leprosy  
Moses: prayed and God healed Miriam
4. **Numbers 13: 26–14:4**  
People: Spies were afraid to go into Promised Land  
God: Threatened to destroy them  
Moses: Pleads for them. God spares lives, but not allow to enter Promised Land
5. **Numbers 14:39–45**  
People: Attacked Canaanites contrary to God’s command  
God: destroys offenders  
Moses: Angry with people and said God would decide
6. **Numbers 16: 1–40**  
People: Korah and followers challenge Moses’s leadership  
God: Sends fire to destroy rebels  
Moses: Tells people how God will judge what is right
7. **Numbers 16: 41–48**  
People: Grumble that Moses has “killed the Lord’s people.”  
God: Prepares to kill them.  
Moses: Prays for them & makes atonement with incense from altar.

Interlude, followed by a new emphasis. No longer about authority, but faith. Bracketed by deaths of Miriam (v. 1) and Aaron (v. 29)

8. **Numbers 20: 1–12**  
People: Complain there is no water (v. 29)  
God: Tells Moses to “speak to the rock” and God will cause water to gush out.  
Moses: Hits rock and takes credit for the water coming out. Moses disobeys, fails. (v. 10)
9. **Numbers 21: 1–9**  
People: After 1<sup>st</sup> military victory, complain about food & water again.  
God: Sent venomous snakes.  
Moses: Follows orders to make bronze snake for people to look to for protection.
10. **Numbers 25: 1–13**  
People: Married into local tribes & took up idol worship  
God: Told Moses to kill them. Sent plague and 24,000 died. (Symbolic #? 12x12x1,000)  
Moses: Did nothing. Plague stopped by Phinehas the priest.