

Complaints!

As God was liberating the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt, they found opportunity to complain against Moses and Aaron as leaders (and against God Himself). Look at the following passages and identify the complaint that the Israelites leveled and how God responded. After that, answer the questions at the bottom.

EXODUS	COMPLAINT	GOD'S RESPONSE
5:20–21, 6:5–9		
14:10–15		
15:23–25		
16:2–15		
17:1–7		

1. Were the Israelites focusing on God and His character or their immediate circumstances?
2. Was there any need that God had not met?
3. Are there any needs in your life that God is not meeting? Describe them.
4. If you answered yes to question 3, are these truly needs or simply desires or wants?
5. Read Philippians 2:14–16 and 4:11–13. What should be the Christian's attitude toward complaining about our circumstances?

Complaints! Answer Key

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EXODUS	COMPLAINT	GOD'S RESPONSE
5:20–21, 6:5–9	<i>Against Moses and God for making their labor hard and under the threat of death (swords), even rejecting God's reassurance</i>	<i>God affirmed His covenant and promise to rescue them and lead them to the Promised Land.</i>
14:10–15	<i>Against Moses for leading them into the wilderness to die rather than letting them remain slaves</i>	<i>God told Moses to tell them to move forward.</i>
15:23–25	<i>To Moses as they had no water after three days journey</i>	<i>He purified the waters of the bitter spring so the people could drink.</i>
16:2–15	<i>To Moses against God because they did not have meat and bread as they had in Egypt</i>	<i>God provided quail for meat and manna for bread.</i>
17:1–7	<i>Against Moses for not having water and wanting all of them to die; doubting whether God was among them</i>	<i>God instructed Moses to strike a rock with his staff to provide water for the people.</i>

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