



# LESSON 11

## God's Concern For Order


### VOCABULARY


*Leprosy: a disease of the skin tissues and nerves characterized by noticeable ulcers and deformities. In the Bible, leprosy is a picture of sin.*

*Manna: a type of food miraculously provided by God for the Israelites in the wilderness*


As the book of Numbers opens, we see millions of Israelites in the desert. There is nothing to eat and no water to drink. How were they to live? God was there. He would take care of everything.

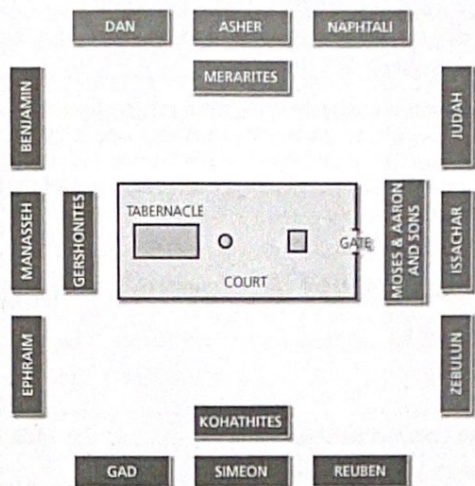
### God's Concern For Each Person

 A principle that helps us to understand better what God is like is His concern for order and detail. Order is heaven's first law. How do we see God's concern for order and detail in the story of creation? He made all things in a definite order—not all at once, but certain things on certain days.

 Consider Numbers 1–2, and you will see that God was very interested in each person. The people were divided into twelve tribes. In Numbers 1:2 and 19, what did God command Moses to do? Take a census (count) of the people by their clans and families

Since order and detail are so important to God, we can understand why God was so concerned about numbering His people. He also arranged the tribes, chose particular men to be priests, and assigned certain duties to the people.

 Notice the diagram on the following page of how the twelve tribes of Israel ordered themselves in the camp. Read Numbers 1:5–15. Whose names had now become the names of the twelve tribes? the sons or grandsons of Jacob



As you look over chapter 2, what is the main idea of this chapter? Moses tells the exact number in each tribe.

Even today, God knows by name all that are His. Write in your own words how the verses below reveal this truth.

- Luke 10:20: Your names are written in heaven.
- Luke 12:7: The hairs of your head are numbered.
- Philippians 4:23: Paul prays that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ would be with the Philippians.
- 2 Timothy 2:19: The Lord knows those who are His.

### God Meets The People's Needs

Refer back to Exodus and see how God began to meet the needs of the Israelites at the first part of their journey.

Exodus	Cries Of The People	Need Met By God
15:23-27	The water was bitter, and they could not drink it.	Moses threw a piece of wood into the water, and the water became sweet.
16:3, 12-15	The people were hungry.	God gave them quail and manna (bread).
17:2-6	The people again wanted water.	God had Moses strike a rock, and water came out of it.



What was the general attitude of the people in each of these instances? complaining, grumbling, and quarreling

God had provided everything the people would need for the time they would be in the desert. Remember, it was not God's plan for this period to last very long. It was God's plan that His people would soon be in the Promised Land of Canaan where there would be varieties of food and plenty of water to drink. The manna was only to meet the immediate needs of the people, and they should have been grateful for God's provision.

## The Results Of A Complaining Spirit




In Numbers 11 and 12, we see more instances of the sin of complaining even by those who were close to Moses.

Numbers	Who Complained And Why?	The Result
11:1, 4-6, 16-20, 31-33	The people were tired of manna and wanted what they had had to eat in Egypt.	God gave them so many quail that they got sick; God sent a plague.
12:1-2, 9-10	Aaron and Miriam wanted to have more of a leadership role.	Miriam became a leper; God was greatly angered.

## Conquering The Enemy

God had to take care of millions of people in the wilderness. Without order and duties for everyone, they could not live. This is why God wants the things of your life to be done in a fitting and orderly way. He wants you to be successful in what you do.

List some things in your own life that need to be done in a fitting and orderly way. Give examples for each area below.


Studying God's Word
My chores
My homework
My room
My habits

In this lesson, we saw how the Israelites sinned by complaining against Moses and God. When we consider how much God had done for them, it is difficult to understand why they grumbled and complained so much.



But before you become disgusted by how terrible the Israelites were, ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I complain very much during the day about the work my teacher gives me to do?  
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- Do I complain to my parents about my chores and things I am asked to do for them?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do I complain to my friends that things are not done fairly?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Are there other things I complain about?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How am I showing that I am satisfied with what God is doing for me and the things He has given me in my life in order that I might mature?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Life Principle:** When the sin of a complaining attitude comes into your life, realize how foolish you are and tell the Lord that you are sorry.

A complaining attitude does not help the situation but only leads to misery. Like all other sins, it keeps us from being what God wants us to be. God does not want sin to keep us unhappy on the inside. He wants us to have a joyful spirit, and we can if we learn to be thankful to Him instead of complaining constantly.