

Exegetical Notes, Numbers 11:1-3
“Taberah”

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NUMBERS 11:1-3

Verse 1

Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.

- Israel found traveling harder than resting. When the journey to the Promised Land began, their lives became more difficult. So they complained about the hardships they faced.
- The phrase, "in the hearing of Yahweh," means that they actually complained about their plight to God in their prayers.
- In response to their complaints, God sent a fire. The Hebrew word is "taberah." It is the word which is usually translated lightning. The fire from God started a brush fire which burned on the outskirts of the encampment.

Verse2-3

When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down. ³ So that place was called Taberah, because fire from the LORD had burned among them.

- Frightened by the fire, the people asked Moses to intercede for them before God which Moses did and the fire went out without their help.
- They named the place where this happened "Taberah," fire, to remind them of what had happened there.

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