引言 INTRODUCTION

Thanksgiving is a day to rejoice. We express gratitude to God for all His blessings. However, you will often meet people who focus on a half-glass of air than a half-glass of water. They will complain when they compare. I read the following story that illustrates such a cranky attitude. A dog walked into a butcher shop holding a basket in its mouth. It dropped the basket at the counter. The butcher noticed that there was money inside. He asked the dog: "Do you want to buy some meat?" The dog responded: "Woof!" "What would you like: steak, sausages or bacon?" "Woof!" The dog answered. Then the man said: "Alright, I'll pack some steak for you. How much? One pound or two?" "Woof!" The dog tried to communicate. After the transaction, the butcher put the meat and change into the basket. The dog grabbed it and walked out the store. Out of curiosity, the man followed it. The dog scratched the door with its paw when it arrived home. The master opened the door and yelled at his pet: "Stop!" The shop-owner was upset. He protested: "Give him credit, man! He is the smartest dog I've ever seen." "Smart?" The owner disagreed. "It's the third time in a week that he forgot to bring the key!" Whiners like that are everywhere. The Israelites in the Old Testament were no different. As we shall see in our story today, grumbling can lead to a serious consequence. Let us recap the setting. Numbers chapter 11 marks the second year after God's people left Egypt. The Bible says there were over six hundred thousand men. Together with wives and children, it could be a multitude of two million people. They departed from Mount Sinai and were on their way to Canaan, the land God promised to Abraham. They had the manpower to fight in battles. They had God's presence to finish the tasks. However, they lacked the perspective to follow God. We often look like the Israelites – short-sighted, ungrateful and limited in faith. However, God is our constant help when we call onto Him. There are good reasons for us to study a sad story days before Thanksgiving. God is always optimistic. But He is also realistic about human condition. Imagine you are Moses, the leader. How would you rely on God and turn a negative situation into a positive outcome? God wants Moses and us to learn an important lesson: He will help us fix our problems when we fix our eyes on His promises.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 令人沮喪的言論 Discouraging Remarks

First, we hear some discouraging remarks among the Israelites. Let us read from verses 4-6. Who were those "rabble?" The Hebrew word means a mixed crowd. There were some non-Israelites who left Egypt with God's people. They witnessed the supernatural power of the Hebrew God. If leaving Egypt means liberation, why not follow the Israelites? Now those outsiders complained by weeping. They cried like a toddler who cannot find his favorite toy. What were those big men weeping about? First, they asked: "Where is the meat?" They remembered they had fish when they lived in Egypt. The fact is that people in the ancient world seldom ate meat unless it was a festival or a special occasion such as a wedding. The text says they had a strong craving for meat. It means an intense urge. Not too long ago, people had to fight for Black Friday deals in stores. Once a man scratched my finger when grabbing an item from the pile. Shopping can be a

dangerous activity! Second, they questioned: "Where is the treat?" They named some vegetables they used to enjoy. They were tired of eating the same manna. God gave manna to the Israelites as a source of food when they grumbled about having no food. Manna looks like plant seeds. They ground it into flour and made bread from it. God promised to give them a fresh supply of manna every morning. On the surface, the problem had to do with food. God told Moses the real reasons behind their complaints in verse 20: "...because you have rejected the Lord who is among you and have wept before him, saying, "Why did we come out of Egypt?"" Problem #1: they had rejected God. Problem #2: they regretted for leaving Egypt. They had a short-term memory of God's salvation. They forgot two important things. First, they had no freedom when they were slaves in Egypt. They were forced to work with no pay, sick leave nor vacation. Second, they also had no future. There was no retirement. Their children were born as slaves by default. But now they had both freedom and a future. Here are some lessons we can learn from the Israelites. Lesson 1: Do not compare where you are to where you came from. We used to be slaves in sin. In the past, perhaps you made more money by sneaky ways, you achieved success through certain relationship and you indulged in sinful pleasure. Jesus set you free and gave you a new life. He does not want you to go back to the old self. Lesson 2: Do not focus on today and forget where you are going. Jesus saved your soul and He called you to follow Him. It is a blessed path. But He never guarantees a smooth-sailing. Jesus told us upfront that there will be hardship. Non-believers will hate us because they hate Him. They will say that we are naïve, dumb and narrow-minded. But Jesus promised to be with us. Lesson 3: Do not compare what you have to what you do not have. The Israelites grumbled that they ONLY had manna because they were not thankful for it. When is the last time you thank God? A little kid was invited to a friend's house to play. He noticed at lunch that the host started eating without saying grace. He asked: "Why don't you pray?" The father was a little embarrassed. He replied: "Oh, sorry. We don't do that." The boy responded: "You are just like our dog. He gets right to his food." Kids are simple-minded and they do not hide true feelings. Hope you will not find the comment offensive. No matter what is on your dining table this Thursday – a fat turkey, a roasted duck or ordinary chicken, thank God for that. Thank God whether you have a huge mansion or a tiny apartment, a shiny new car or a beat-up tin can, and a six-figure paycheck or you have yet to figure out what career to pursue. Say to God: "Thank You for everything You give me."

2. 讓人頭痛的角色 Distressing Role

A group of people raised some discouraging remarks. Those complaints spread like a contagious disease. Soon everyone became a grumpy old man. Poor Moses had a distressing role. Even he turned into a whiner! Listen to his frustration in verses 11-15. Moses brought up two issues to God. First, the burden was too heavy to bear. How could one person calm two million people? Second, the problem was too big to solve. It was impossible to find enough meat in a desert to feed a huge crowd. Those two were legitimate issues. Moses did not only want to quit. He even asked God to take his life. Was Moses serious? Probably not. He acted like an unhappy kid because her friend has the hottest toy or a crying wife who cannot find a perfect dress for a formal function. Perhaps all they need is a listening ear and some comforting words. If you show enough emotional support, you may not even need to offer financial support to buy the stuff! God is a whole lot wiser than us. He had the perfect solutions for Moses. To address the first issue, God asked Moses to find some helpers. Look at verses 16-17. Moses should not only look for capable managers. He must recruit spiritual leaders. God would share some spiritual power

He gave to Moses with those men. In Exodus 18, Moses' father-in-law Jethro proposed a similar plan. He saw a long line of people bringing disputes to Moses every day. That duty alone could tie Moses up and wear him down. Jethro suggested in verse 21 of the chapter: "Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens." A hierarchy of judges was then set up. From then on, Moses would only handle the toughest cases. Even a non-believer like Jethro understood that fearing God and an upright character are crucial criteria for leaders. Churches should look for the same qualities in coworkers. Their secular titles and capabilities are secondary to their integrity and their love for God. After dealing with Moses' workload, God told Moses how He would supply meat. Look at verse 18 to the first half of verse 20. God commanded the people to consecrate themselves. The same word is used for ceremonial cleansing. It was more than washing hands before eating. They must sanctify themselves because God would approach them. The image of meat coming out from nostrils looks gross. It is like we say: eat all you want till you throw up. You may have seen some restaurants in rural areas that advertise free steak. It will be free if a customer can gobble up a four-pound cut of meat in one setting. It is like half a cow on your plate! The first few bites will be delicious. As your stomach is getting full, the rest of the dining will not be a fun experience. God knows how stiff-necked we are. We will keep begging for the things we want until we get it. The wisest solution is to let us have it until we realize that it is a wrong thing to ask for. But God is still in full control even when we go astray. He just makes the leash longer. By the time we feel the vanity and damage of sin, we will return to God and confess to Him. God reminded Moses that He was a gracious Provider in both solutions. He understood Moses' distressing role. You may be a parent, a leader at work or in the church. Doing things are always easier than managing people. A computer program can be debugged and a broken machine can be fixed. In comparison, people may argue, or have preferences and their moods will swing. They may not be grateful for everything you do for them either. Keep in mind that you are serving God by serving people. He understands your challenge and frustration. He will give you the proper solutions when He puts you in a certain position.

3. 清除搗亂的份子 Dismissing Rebels

God heard the discouraging remarks from those people. He also showed mercy to Moses for his distressing role. Next, God intended to dismiss the rebels through a miracle. Read verses 31-34. Notice how God provided the meat. Verse 31 says He used a wind to bring some quails to the site. Quails are seasonal birds that migrate between Europe and North Africa. God steered the direction of the wind and delivered the meat. God can surely make something out of nothing. That was how He created the world. But He can also use existing resources to achieve His goals. Remember how Jesus performed the miracle of five-loaves-and-two-fish? A small boy donated those food. Then Jesus made multiple copies from a meager portion and fed 5,000 people. God can also change the course of history and the direction of our lives to fulfill His plans. He will open the right door at the proper time. We just seize those opportunities and step out by faith. The Israelites must be drooling when they saw meat flying to them. They spent 48 hours to collect the birds! Each person got over 2,000 liters of meat. A quail is slightly smaller than a pigeon. Assume one person can eat two or three birds in one meal. It was a lot of meat by any standard. They laid the meat on the ground. There was no refrigerator at that time. It was likely that they cleaned the birds, salted them and dried them under the sun. While they were busy

processing the birds, they wasted no time and started having a picnic. Verse 33 says God burst out anger and hit them with a plague while they were still chewing the meat. We may wonder: is God not full of love? How could He get mad against His children and kill them? God is actually full of patience. This was the third time in this chapter that people grumbled. They complained in verse 1. God responded with anger but He did not punish them. They grumbled two times later about no meat. Verse 10 says God's anger "blazed hotly." They whined every time they faced troubles ever since they left Egypt. They blamed God for putting them in a difficult situation. Eventually, God must discipline them for their disobedience and disbelief. Discipline is more than punishment. It serves two purposes: a reminder and a warning. God reminded them that they were on their way to the Promised Land. They were not on a sight-seeing trip. They might wish that there was a direct flight from Egypt to Canaan. Who wants to go through a desert? There was extreme heat, wild animals and enemies. The search for food and water was a daily challenge. God never assured that it was an easy journey. The Bible says God revealed Himself as a pillar of cloud during the day, and a pillar of fire at night. He was with them the whole time! Today, the Holy Spirit lives in believers to guide them. Their eternal destiny is secure. But they still need to walk by faith daily. I came up with the following illustration recently in the baptism class. Suppose my father is the president of a college. He signs a diploma with my name on it. It guarantees my graduation four years later regardless of my grades. It does not matter whether I attend class, do homework or take exam. However, education is not about getting a piece of paper. Learning molds me into a mature person and it prepares me for future obstacles in life. I will break my father's heart and waste a ton of opportunities if I do nothing but play computer games for four years! Spiritual maturity is like attending school. Believers have the assurance of going to heaven. But God does not gather heaven ticket-holders. He calls for Jesus-followers. Those Christians who do nothing but wait for their turn to go to up will miss a lot of blessing. God disciplined the Israelites. He will discipline us too when we drift off the course. It can be a relational breakup, a serious illness or a financial loss. The shockwave wakes us up. It alerts us to reassess our relationship with God. God shows His grace even in His discipline. He patiently gives us a way to turn back to Him.

結論 CONCLUSION

God will help us fix our problems when we fix our eyes on His promises. He can turn a negative situation into a positive outcome. In our story today, God used a drastic means to deal with grumbling people. Complaint can be devastating. It disrupts people's faith; it diminishes team spirit and it distracts them from achieving God's plans. The Bible is unlike a history book of certain ancient dynasties. It does not only record glorious stories of men's victories. It is also full of defeats due to men's sins. After all, people are rebellious in nature. However, God's plans will never be spoiled by our failures. He wants us to learn from those lessons and avoid repeating the same mistakes. Do not compare and complain. Instead compare and compliment what God has done for us, and what He will continue to do in us.

引言 INTRODUCTION

感恩節是一個值得慶祝的日子。我們對神的祝福表示感謝。然而,你經常會遇到一 些只注意半杯空氣而忽略半杯水的人。當他們作比較時便會埋怨。以下的故事說明 了這種不滿的心態。一隻狗叼著一個籃子走進一家肉店。它把包包扔在櫃檯上。老 闆注意到裡面有錢。他問那隻狗:「你想買肉嗎?」狗回答:「汪!」「你想要什 麼:牛排、香腸還是培根?」狗回答:「汪!」。然後那人說:「好吧,我給你拿點 牛排。要多少?一磅還是兩磅?」「汪!」狗試圖溝通。交易結束後,老闆將肉和 零錢放在籃子中。狗咬住袋子,然後走出商店。出於好奇,老闆跟著牠。狗到家後 用爪子抓門。主人打開門,對著他的寵物大喊:「住手!」店主很不高興。他抗議 道:「朋友,別生氣!牠是我見過最聰明的狗。」「聰明的?」主人不同意。「這 已經是牠一周內第三次忘記帶鑰匙了!」喜歡埋怨的人到處都有。舊約中的以色列 人也不例外。我們從今天的故事中看到的,埋怨可能會導致嚴重的後果。讓我們回 顧一下故事的背景。民數記第 11 章發生在神的子民離開埃及後的第二年。聖經說 當時有超過六十萬人男士。加上妻子和孩子,可能有兩百萬人。他們離開西乃山, 前往神應許亞伯拉罕的迦南地。他們有足夠的人力去打仗。他們有神的同在來完成 任務。然而,他們缺乏跟隨神的心志。我們常常看起來像他們一樣。我們只關心眼 前的事情、忘記神的恩典、而且信心不足。然而,當我們呼求神之時,祂願意幫助 我們。我們在感恩節之前讀一個悲劇的故事是有原因的。神總是樂觀的。但祂對人 類的處境也很現實。想像你是以色列人的領袖摩西。你會如何依靠神將消極的局面 轉為正面的結果?神希望摩西和我們學到一個重要的教訓:當我們專注於神的應許 時, 祂會解決我們的問題。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 令人沮喪的言論 Discouraging Remarks

首先,我們聽到以色列人中一些令人沮喪的言論。讓我們讀第 4-6 節。那些「閒雜人」是誰?那個字的希伯來文的意思是混雜的人。有一些非以色列人與神的子民一起離開埃及。他們看見希伯來人的神的大能。如果離開埃及意味著解放,為什麼不跟他們一起走呢?現在那些外人哭訴著。他們哭得像一個找不到自己最喜歡的玩具的小孩。那些大男人哭什麼?首先,他們問:「為什麼沒有肉?」他們記得住在埃及時有魚吃。事實上,古代的人很少吃肉,除非是過節或是婚禮等特別場合。經文說他們起貪慾的心,意思是強烈的衝動。不久之前,人們必須親自到商店搶購黑色星期五的便宜貨。有一次,一位男士搶他想要的東西時割傷了我的手指。購物其實

是一項危險的活動!其次,那些閒雜人問:「為什麼沒有其他食物?」他們提到一 些以前吃的蔬菜,因為他們厭倦了每天都吃嗎哪。當時以色列人因為沒有食物而發 怨言,於是神將嗎哪賜給他們作食物。嗎哪看起來像植物的種子。他們把它磨成麵 粉並用它造麵包。神答應每天早上都會賜給他們新鮮的嗎哪。從表面上看,他們是 因為食物而埋怨。神在第20節告訴摩西他們埋怨的真正原因:…「因為你們厭棄 住在你們中間的耶和華,在他面前哭號說:『我們為何出了埃及呢!』」問題第一: 他們厭棄神。問題第二:他們後悔離開埃及。他們那麼快便忘記了神的救恩。他們 忘記了兩件重要的事情。首先,他們在埃及當奴隸時沒有自由。他們被迫工作,沒 有薪水、病假或假期。其次,他們也沒有將來。沒有退休制度。他們的孩子出生後 也自動成為奴隸。但現在他們既擁有了自由,也擁有了將來。我們可以從他們身上 學到的一些教訓。第一:不要將你現在的處境和你原來的處境作比較。聖經說我們 曾經是罪的奴僕。在信耶穌之前,也許你透過偷偷摸摸的方式賺了更多的錢,你透 過某種關係獲得了成就,你沉迷於罪中之樂。耶穌釋放了你並賜給你新的生命。祂 不希望你回到原來的樣子。第二:不要只專注在目前而忘記你的目的地。耶穌拯救 了你的靈魂,祂呼召你跟隨祂。這是一條蒙福的道路。但主從來沒有保證會一帆風 順。耶穌預先告訴我們,將會有困難。非信徒會恨我們,因為他們恨祂。他們會嫌 我們太天真、愚蠢、思想狹隘。但耶穌應許會與我們同在。第三:不要將你擁有的 與你沒有的東西作比較。以色列人埋怨說只有嗎哪,因為他們沒有感恩之心。請問 你最近一次感謝神是在什麼時候?一個小孩被邀請到朋友家玩。午餐時,他注意到 主人沒有禱告就開始吃飯。他問:「你們為什麼不禱告?」那位父親有些尷尬。他 回答說:「哦,對不起。我們沒有這個習慣。」男孩回答:「你就像我家的狗一樣。 牠看到食物就馬上去吃。」小孩子心志單純,想到什麼便直接說出來。希望大家不 會覺得被冒犯。無論這個星期四你的餐桌上有什麼:一隻肥火雞、一隻烤鴨還是普 通的雞肉,你都應該感謝神。為一切祝福感謝神,無論你擁有豪宅還是住在狹小的 公寓,一輛閃亮的新車還是一個破舊的鐵皮車,有六位數字的收入,或者你還沒有 搞清楚要做什麼專業。對神說:「感謝祢賜給我的一切。」

2. 讓人頭痛的角色 Distressing Role

有部份人提出了一些令人沮喪的言論。這些埋怨像傳染病一樣傳播。很快地大家都變成怨婦了。可憐的摩西扮演一個讓人頭痛的角色。連他都開始發出怨言了!請聽聽第11至15節中他的挫敗感。摩西向神提出了兩個問題。首先,責任太繁重,難以承受。一個人如何能夠安撫兩百萬人?其次,問題太大,難以解決。在沙漠中不可能找到足夠的肉來給那麼多人吃。這兩個問題都是合理的。摩西不只不想幹,他甚至求神奪走他的性命。摩西是認真的嗎?可能不是。他表現得像個不開心的孩子,因為她的朋友有最流行的玩具。他也像個哭鬧的妻子,因為她找不到適合的晚宴遭服。也許她們所需要的只是傾聽的耳朵和一些安慰的話。如果你表現出心靈支持,你甚至可能不需要花錢買那些東西!神比我們更有智慧。祂為摩西提供了完美

的解決方案。為了處理第一個問題,神要求摩西去找一些幫手。請看第16-17節。 摩西要尋找的不只是管理人才,他要招募的是屬靈領袖。神會與這些人分享祂賜給 摩西的一些屬顯能力。在出埃及記第 18 章中,摩西的岳父葉忒羅提出了類似的建 議。他每天都看到有人排隊找摩西解決紛爭。這個重擔就足以使摩西疲憊不堪。葉 忒羅在該章第21節中建議:「並要從百姓中揀選有才能的人,就是敬畏神、誠實無 妄、恨不義之財的人,派他們作千夫長、百夫長、五十夫長、十夫長,管理百 姓。」於是,以色列人設立了一個法官的架構。從此以後,摩西只處理最棘手的案 件。即使是像葉忒羅這樣的非信徒也明白,敬畏神和正直的心是領袖的重要條件。 教會應該以同樣的標準挑選同工。他們的品格和對神的愛比世俗頭銜和辦事能力更 重要。减輕了摩西的工作重擔之後,接下來神告訴摩西祂將如何供應食物。請看第 18 節到第 20 節的上半部份。神吩咐百姓要自潔。同一個字也用於潔淨儀式。神要 求的不是飯前洗手。他們必須潔淨自己,因為神會接近他們。肉從鼻孔裡噴出來的 的形像聽起來很噁心。就像我們說的:拼命猛食,食到吐為止。你可能看過一些小 鎮的餐廳打著免費牛排的廣告。如果顧客能夠一口氣吃掉四磅重的肉,那就是免費 的。彷彿你的盤子裡有半頭牛一樣!剛開始的時候你會吃得很過癮。但是當你逐漸 吃飽的時候,你看到剩下的肉便覺得厭惡。神知道我們的心有多麼的剛硬。我們會 不斷求自己想要的東西,直到得到為止。最有智慧的解決辦法是讓我們擁有它,直 到我們明白到自己的要求是錯誤的。但縱使我們會偏人己路,神仍然完全掌管我們 的生命。當我們感受到罪的空虛和損害時,我們就會回到神面前向祂認罪。神提醒 摩西,這兩個解決方案都表現出祂的恩慈。神了解摩西扮演一個讓人頭痛的角色。 你可能是個父母親、或是工作場所或教會的領袖。做事總是比管人容易。電腦程式 可以更改,機器壞了可以維修。相比之下,人可能會不合作,他們有自己的喜好, 他們的情緒也會波動。他們也可能不會感激你為他們所做的一切。請記住,你是透 過服事人來服事神。神理解你的挑戰和挫折。當神把你放在某個崗位時,祂也會給 你正確的解決方案。

3. 清除搗亂的份子 Dismissing Rebels

神聽到了那些人令人沮喪的言論。祂也憐憫摩西所扮演讓人頭痛的角色。接下來,神打算透過神蹟來清除搗亂的份子。讀第 31-34 節。請注意神如何提供肉。第 31 節說,祂用風把一些鵪鶉吹到現場。鵪鶉是在歐洲和北非之間遷徙的季候鳥。神改變風的方向,送來肉。神當然可以從無到有創造出新東西。這就是祂創造世界的方式。但祂也可以利用現有的資源來達成祂的目標。還記得耶穌如何行五餅二魚的神蹟嗎?一個小男孩貢獻一些食物,然後耶穌把食物複製了很多份,餵飽了五千人。神也可以改變歷史的進程和我們生命的方向來成就祂的旨意。祂會在適當的時間打開適合的門。我們只要抓住機會,憑著信心走出去。以色列人看到肉飛過來一定在流口水。他們花了 48 個小時來抓那些鳥!每人收集到兩千多公升的肉。鵪鶉比鴿子稍小。假設一個人一餐可以吃兩三隻鳥。無論以任何標準來看,那都是很多肉。

他們把肉放在地上。那時候沒有冰箱。他們可能把鳥清乾淨,用鹽醃製,然後放在 太陽下曬乾。他們一邊忙著處理鳥兒,一邊開始野餐。第 33 節說,當他們還在咀 嚼肉的時候,神就發怒,用瘟疫擊打他們。我們可能會問:神不是充滿慈愛的嗎? 祂怎麼可以發怒並殺死自己的兒女呢?神其實是充滿忍耐的。這已經是以色列人在 這一章第三次埋怨了。他們在第1節埋怨。神發怒,但是祂沒有管教他們。然後他 們因為沒有肉食再度埋怨。第10節說神的「怒氣便大發作」。自從離開埃及以來, 每當遇到困難時,他們都會埋怨。他們責怪神讓他們陷入困境。最終,神必須對他 們的不順服和不信任進行管教。管教不只是懲罰。它有兩個目的:提醒和警告。神 提醒他們,他們正在前往應許之地的路上。他們並不是來觀光旅遊的。他們可能希 望能夠從埃及坐飛機直達迦南地。誰會願意穿過沙漠?那裡有酷熱、猛獸和敵人。 尋找食物和水是每天的挑戰。神從未保證這是一次輕鬆的旅程。聖經說,神在白天 用雲柱顯現,在夜間用火柱顯現。表示祂一直與他們同在!今天,聖靈住在信徒裡 面來引導他們。神保障他們的永恆終點。但他們仍然需要每天憑信心而活。我最近 在浸禮課上分享了下面的例子。假設我爸爸是大學的校長。他在一張文憑上簽了 字,上面寫著我的名字。無論我的成績如何,保證我四年後畢業。我是否上課、做 功課或考試並無所謂。然而,教育並不是為了得到一張紙。學習塑造我成為一個成 熟的人,並準備我迎接未來的挑戰。如果我四年什麼都不做,只玩電腦遊戲,我會 傷了我父親的心,並浪費了很多機會!靈命成熟就像上學一樣。信徒有了去天堂的 保證。但神不是要聚集有天堂門票的人,祂是呼召耶穌的跟隨者。那些什麼也不做 等待上天的基督徒將會錯過很多祝福。神管教以色列人。當我們偏離正路時,神也 可能會管教我們。袖可能透過關係破裂、嚴重的疾病或是經濟損失。這些衝擊把我 們喚醒,提醒我們重新評估我們與神的關係。在神的管教中,祂也顯明了恩典。祂 耐心地給我們一條回到祂身邊的路。

結論 CONCLUSION

當我們專注於神的應許時,祂會解決我們的問題。神可以將消極的情況轉變為積極的結果。在我們今天的故事中,神用嚴厲的措施來對付發怨言的人。埋怨可能會造成破壞。它擾亂了人們的信心;它會削弱團隊精神,並分散他們的注意力,使他們無法達成神的目標。聖經不像一些古代王朝的歷史書。它不僅記錄了人類勝利的輝煌故事。聖經也充滿了因為罪而帶來的失敗。畢竟,人的本性是叛逆的。然而,神的計劃不會因我們的失敗而被破壞。但是神希望我們從教訓中汲取經驗,以免重蹈覆轍。因此我們不要比較並埋怨。我們感謝神為我們所做的一切,以及祂將繼續在我們身上所做的一切。