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The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- Departure from Sinai 10:10-35
 - The planning and preparation for moving toward the Promised Land is now complete.
 - The second year, second month and twentieth day since leaving Egypt.
 - The cloud lifted as the signal for them to move.
 - The Judah group, Judah, Issachar and Zebulun led the way
 - The sons of Gerson and sons of Merari followed with the structure of the Tabernacle.

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- Departure from Sinai 10:10-35
 - The Reuben group followed, Reuben, Simeon and Gad
 - The sons of Kohath bearing the holy items of the Tabernacle followed. This sequence gave time for the Tabernacle to be set up and receive these items by the time they arrived.
 - The Ephraim group followed, Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin
 - The Dan group acted as the rear guard, Dan, Asher and Naphtali

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The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- Departure from Sinai 10:10-35
 - Moses invites and his brother-in-law Hobab to go with them as a guide in the wilderness.
 - Initially refuses
 - Moses pleads with him to come citing his expertise in the wilderness and reminding him that in doing so he would experience Yahweh's goodness to His people.

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- The people responded to the rigors of travel by complaining.
11:1-3
 - God heard their complaining
 - God's anger was kindled (Hebrew: His nose became hot)
 - Fire began to consume some of the outlying parts of the camp.
 - Moses interceded for the people and the fire died down.

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- The "rabble" refers to the "mixed multitude" cited in Exodus 12:38 which came out of Egypt with the Israelites. Denotes people who were not Israelites but also probably not Egyptians. These would have been foreigners in the land of Egypt who were oppressed by the Egyptians and were as eager to leave Egypt as the Israelites. 11:4-9
 - Reveals how a small vocal group of people can have a powerful detrimental impact on the masses.
 - It seems that they chose to focus on what they did not have in the wilderness.
 - The reference to the food that costed nothing shows how selective our memories can be. These were the same people crying out to God for deliverance from Egyptian oppression.
 - They even despised the provision of manna.

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- Moses launched into a complaint. 11:10-15
 - Sees the responsibility God has given him as a detriment
 - Wonders how he ended up with being responsible for these people.
 - Bemoans his inability to provide the meat they are requesting
 - Expresses his sense of isolation in his position
 - Entreats God to kill him to relieve him of this burden.

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The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- God's response to Moses 11:16-30
 - Instruction him to gather 70 elders (leaders) from the Israelites. These are people who are recognized for the leadership they are presently exercising.
 - God will place some of the same Spirit on them which He has placed on Moses. (in the Old Testament God placed His Spirit on people for specific tasks. The new things that happened on the day of Pentecost was that God's Spirit indwells all of His followers.

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- God's response to Moses 11:16-30
 - Instruction him to gather 70 elders (leaders) from the Israelites. These are people who are recognized for the leadership they are presently exercising.
 - The seventy are summoned, God places His Spirit on them. They prophesied as a visible and tangible confirmation of the Spirit of God placed on them.
 - This would confirm to not only these men but to all the congregation that these people has received God's Spirit.
 - Note that this was a unique experience for this purpose and was not repeated.
 - Even the two men who did not gather at the tent of meeting were affected.
 - Joshua saw this as a threat to Moses, but Moses knew where his power and authority came from and other people functioning in the Spirit only enhance God's activity.

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- Prophesied
 - Number 11:25 is the first time this term is used in the Bible.
 - A similar phenomenon with the same terminology happened to Saul just after he was anointed by Samuel to be Israel's first king. 1 Samuel 10:1-13
 - Connected with the utterances of the people on the day of Pentecost which was the coming of the Holy Spirit in fulfillment of Jesus' promise. Acts 2:14-18

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- Prophesied
 - Although the term is not used in these incidents the same manifestation seems to be at work at the coming of the Spirit:
 - On the first Samaritan converts. Acts 8:14-24
 - On the first Gentile converts Acts 10:44-48
 - The disciples of John after Paul shared the gospel of Jesus Christ with them in Ephesus. Acts 19:1-7

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The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- Prophesied
 - This use of the term describes a verbal manifestation of such a nature that it clearly reveals the activity of the Spirit of God.
 - The incidents cited all have the commonality that a new or transitional event is taking place.
 - In each of these events it was important for the people themselves and those who were observing to recognize that God's Spirit had come upon the people described.

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