

together for our present purpose in one heading: Rebellion and Disaffection..

A. Disaffection in the Outer Parts of the Camp. 11:1-3. (Reading the text)

This is a brief passage in which we find disaffection in the outer parts of the camp and we find the fire of the Lord burning among them as a result and Moses praying for them and the fire being quenched.

1. We are not told how soon this occurred. I think this is important. Between the time at Sinai and the end of the bk. of Num. 40 yrs. occurs, approximately 40 yrs. I don't think we want to insist that everything be in exact periods in the Bible. It's not that way ordinarily in life, and it's not that way in the Bible. I think it was Augustine who had a very clever theory, at least one of the very early fathers had. He said there will be six millennia -- six thousand yr. periods in this world and then there is the ~~wonderful~~ wonderful Sabbath, the Millennium, the 7th one. And so we can figure the dates, of course. As soon as we get 6000 yrs. from when Adam started we will know when it is time for the beginning of the Millennium. Now I do not rule out the possibility that we may find it's that way when we can look back on it. I don't rule out the possibility. But I'm inclined to think it's unlikely. And I/~~certainly~~/ certainly know that the Lord has clearly shown in His word that he does not desire us to set dates. He wants ~~to~~ us to always be ready for His coming. He told Peter that he ~~should~~ ^{should} be ready because he did not know the day nor the hour when the Lord would come. He made that very explicit. Pet. must be ready. Because he didn't know when the Lord would come. Now some people say. O yes, but He said that -- He told how Pet. would die so you can know he wouldn't come in Pet's lifetime. And therefore everybody else can know that the Lord couldn't come yet because Pet. was living. But of course in those days, Pet. might be 30 miles away and you might not know whether he was living. It would take you a day to walk the 30 miles. And when Pet. was way across the Christian world you certainly ~~of~~ wouldn't know for perhaps a month after he died. So right from the beg. He wanted us to live as those who are ready not knowing when the Lord is coming. We don't know when He is coming. I'm sure Augustine when he lay on his death bed and heard the vandals shrieking outside his city as the walls were there around the city of Hippo holding them out, and