

It is very easy for us to exaggerate that. I believe you remember most of you perhaps that when we had a missionary speaker not long ago who had been in E. Pakistan during the difficulties there, he said that the people who were trying to hold them in accordance with the previous regime went among the Mohammedans and tried to get them to think that it was the Hindus who were stirring up trouble. It's very common for us to believe that a certain group is responsible for our difficulties, and it may of course be the case. But very often these are only smoke screens of those who are seeking their own advantage. I believe that among Christian people there is this word "mixed multitude" has made quite an impact on their minds at least among those whom I knew in past times. They think of the Israelites and on the mixed multitude and all the trouble the mixed multitude caused. But the fact of the matter is that this phrase mixed multitude I believe occurs only twice -- here and in Ex. 12:38 where it says that a mixed multitude came out of Egypt with them. I don't think we can blame this on the mixed multitude. The fact of the matter is that the ~~proselytes~~ ^{proselytes} the people who have come in from other backgrounds, the people who joined a movement and leave some other movement are often the most fanatical, often the most loyal. The disaffection is most apt to start among those who from everything in their background you would expect to be most loyal. And so I think that we can easily overestimate the place of the mixed multitude in this. It says, The mixed multitude that was among them fell to lusting, and the children of Israel also wept again. The account makes you see the whole mass of the people all stirred up with this longing for all the good things that they had in Egypt. Now this phrase "lusting" here is one which can easily be confusing to us. In modern language, lust to us means, a filthy development or a desire for that which is considered to be wrong or at least which is not ordinarily spoken of a great deal. But that's not what the old Eng. word ~~lust~~ ^{lust means} at all and that's not what what the Heb. word tahawah means. Here it simply means "desire." This Heb. word is trans. "desire" two or three times as often as it is trans. "lust." Lust, originally in the Eng. language, was simply a desire, or a very strong desire, or an overstrong desire for anything. And that's certainly what is involved here. Sexual impurity plays a great part in the miseries of