

# Bread From Heaven

## Exodus Chapter 16

### Exd 16:1 1) Israel Grumbles vs 1 - 3

Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt.

- *Elim is the fulfillment of God's blessing after a bitter experience at Marah.*
- *Elim is the place of 12 springs and 70 date palms. (Elim means palms) A place of refreshing.*
- *They came to the wilderness of Sin "Ciyn" (meaning clay or thorn not what you would first think)*
- *It was a place between Elim and Sinai between refreshing and God's Presence.*
- *15<sup>th</sup> day of the second month. Passover was the 14<sup>th</sup> of the 1<sup>st</sup> month. So ONE MONTH HAS PASSED.*
- *What has happened in one month? (You can follow a specific trail in Numbers 33)*
  - *14th of 1<sup>st</sup> month Passover*
  - *15<sup>th</sup> of 1<sup>st</sup> month they left Rameses and plundered the Egyptians*
  - *The children of Israel went to Succoth*
  - *They went to Etham*
  - *They went to Pihairoth then Migdol*
  - *They Crossed the Red Sea. The Egyptian tried to follow, but God didn't allow it*
  - *They journeyed 3 days to Marah The bitter waters were turned sweet by the tree.*
  - *They moved on to Elim (12 springs and 70 Palms)*
  - *They went out in the wilderness of Sin "Ciyn" to Dophkah, and to Alush*
- *Some where here (Dophkah or Alush) this event took place.*

Exd 16:2 The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

Exd 16:3 The sons of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the LORD'S hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

- *The whole congregation grumbled. You need to remember they are traveling not on the well supplied trade routes but in the wilderness. This wilderness road is tougher, not as pleasant and not as full of pleasures. Our journey is very similar. Walking the path of righteousness, compared to walking the way of the world is leaner, and by the world's standard not as pleasant and not as full of the worldly pleasures.*
- *Could you imagine pastoring this group? Selective memory. But that is what hunger can do to you.*
- *Even if they would have died in Egypt at least they would be eating meat and bread. Here they feel they will die hungry.*
- *Here Egypt is still a part of the children of Israel. These grumbings are reflective of their trust in what was as apposed to trust in God and trusting Him for their needs and future.*

### Exd 16:4 2) God Provides vs 4 - 5

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.

- *God speaks to Moses not about their grumbling but about His provision. They shall not go without provision.*
- *God will provide bread from heaven.*
- *God provides yet it is a test to see if they will "WALK IN HIS INSTRUCTION"*
- *This test isn't a pass/fail but here it is a tool to evaluate and teach obedience. Can they trust the Lord with tomorrow?*

Exd 16:5 "On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily."

Exd 16:6 **3) Moses deals with Grumbling** vs 6 - 9

So Moses and Aaron said to all the sons of Israel, "At evening you will know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt;

Exd 16:7 and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, for **He hears your grumbings** against the LORD; and what are we, that you grumble against us?"

Exd 16:8 Moses said, "{This will happen} when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and bread to the full in the morning; for the LORD hears your grumbings which you grumble against Him. And what are we? **Your grumbings are not against us but against the LORD.**"

- To deal with the grumbling, the sons of Israel need to know 3 things:
  1. The Lord brought them out of Egypt. (Not Moses; and not a bad idea that they seem to follow)
  2. The Lord hears the grumbling. Because it was the Lord that brought them to this place their grumbings against Moses or Aaron really was against the Lord.
  3. The Lord will provide meat in the evening and bread in the morning.
- This sounds so much like when Ananias and Sapphira lied to Peter and yet Peter told them "You have not lied to man but to God" Acts 5

Exd 16:9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for **He has heard your grumbings.**'"

Exd 16:10 **4) God Provides II** vs 10 - 17

It came about as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the sons of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

- The presence of the Lord was still with them in the cloud, yet His glory appeared in His presence.

Exd 16:11 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Exd 16:12 "**I have heard the grumbings** of the sons of Israel; speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'

- God's provision always heightens our awareness of His Lordship in our lives.
- Quails will come in the evening and in the morning dew will come and will dry and leave a flake (bread)
- Deuteronomy 8:3: "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every [word] that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. "

Exd 16:13 So it came about at evening that the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.

Exd 16:14 When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground.

Exd 16:15 When the sons of Israel saw {it,} they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.

- The sons of Israel said "Manna" which means "What is it?" While the sons of Israel, and we traditionally call this "Manna" God call it something else:
  - Nehemiah 9:15 "And gavest them **bread from heaven** for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promisedst them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hadst sworn to give them. "
  - Psalm 78:24+ 25 "And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the **corn of heaven**. Man did eat **angels' food**: he sent them meat to the full. "
  - Psalm 105:40 "[The people] asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the **bread of heaven**. "

- Exodus 16:31 further describes the bread from heaven as *like coriander seed* (about the size of a sesame seed), and sweet like *honey*;
- Numbers 11:7 says it was the color of *bdellium* (a pearl-like color).
- Exodus 16:23 It was either baked or boiled.
- Exodus 16:35 Israel will eat manna for 40 years.

Exd 16:16 "This is what the LORD has commanded, 'Gather of it every man as much as he should eat; you shall take an omer apiece according to the number of persons each of you has in his tent.' "

- *Every man had to gather. Each one had to gather their own on a per family level. You could not hire someone to get your manna. There was not a manna ministry delivering manna. Each person had to get their own for their own family.*
- *An omer was approx a 2 liters.*

Exd 16:17 The sons of Israel did so, and {some} gathered much and {some} little.

Exd 16:18 When they measured it with an omer, he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who had gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat.

Exd 16:19 Moses said to them, "Let no man leave any of it until morning."

- *John's Gospel makes it clear that Jesus is the Bread from Heaven. Manna is the type of two things.*
  - *The Bread of Life (Jesus Himself) John 6:33 + 35*  
*John 6:48-51* "I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."
  - *The Daily Bread (The Word of God) Luke 11:3 "Give us this day our daily bread"*  
*1 Corinthians 10:1-11 speaking of this wilderness experience (verse 11)* "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."
- *We need to see these things are written so we can see that we are to daily get manna for our family. Just one omer full. Not 3 omers so I do not have to gather for the next two days. But daily gather manna. We see this is a lesson for us in our daily MORNING devotions to be with Jesus and His written Word to gather manna.*

Exd 16:20 **5) Israel Does Not Listen** vs 20 - 21

But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them.

Exd 16:21 They gathered it morning by morning, every man as much as he should eat; but when the sun grew hot, it would melt.

- *The disobedience caused the extra manna to spoil, rot, melt and produce worms.*

Exd 16:22 **6) Manna for the Sabbath** vs 22 - 31

Now on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses,

Exd 16:23 then he said to them, "This is what the LORD meant: Tomorrow is a sabbath observance, a holy sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning."

- *The 6<sup>th</sup> day they were to gather 2 days worth.*
- *God introduces the Sabbath. This is the first mention of the Sabbath.*

Exd 16:24 So they put it aside until morning, as Moses had ordered, and it did not become foul nor was there any worm in it.

Exd 16:25 Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field.

Exd 16:26 "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, {the} sabbath, there will be none."

- *This is truly a weekly reminder to the people of the divine provision. If they gathered every day, after*

*some years (not to mention 40 years) they would come to believe this was a natural event just as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west every day.*

- *But the Lord said*
  - 1) *Gather 2 omers and the next day there will be no worms. Different from the last 5 days.*
  - 2) *You will not find manna on the 7<sup>th</sup> day like there was the previous 6 days*

Exd 16:27 It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none.

- *Some still went out and found none just as the Lord had said.*

Exd 16:28 Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions?"

Exd 16:29 "See, the LORD has given you the sabbath; therefore He gives you bread for two days on the sixth day. Remain every man in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day."

Exd 16:30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

- *The Sabbath was given as a wonderful day of rest. It wasn't a works oriented day to press people into a law of obedience. The 7<sup>th</sup> day they did not have to gather. They could rest.*

Exd 16:31 The house of Israel named it manna, and it was like coriander seed, white, and its taste was like wafers with honey.

- *Jewish tradition says that the taste would change to what ever you hoped it would taste like.*

Exd 16:32 **7) Manna as a Testimony** vs 32 - 36

Then Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded, 'Let an omerful of it be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread that I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.' "

Exd 16:33 Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omerful of manna in it, and place it before the LORD to be kept throughout your generations."

- *One jar was kept as a testimony of how the Lord has provided. This was eventually placed in the Ark of the Covenant. (Hebrews 9:1-5)*

Exd 16:34 As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the Testimony, to be kept.

Exd 16:35 The sons of Israel ate the manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

- *While there are always complainers, this manna satisfied Israel everyday for 40 years.*
- *If Jesus and His Word is the true Bread from heaven, how much more will the Bread of Life satisfy us for ever.*

Exd 16:36 (Now an omer is a tenth of an ephah.)

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