

WHEN IT RAINED BREAD FROM HEAVEN

TEXT: *Exodus 16:4* Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

THESIS: To reveal Manna as a type of God's WRITTEN Word.

INTRO.: A. **Scene I:** The Lord led Israel, two million strong, out of Egypt by a series of supernatural miracles. But He hadn't done anything spectacular for three days!! *Result? Murmuring!*

Exodus 15:22-24 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

The water they finally found was poison, but the Lord made it palatable. He did this deliberately **"to prove them."**

Exodus 15:25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them...

B. **Scene II:** They now had plenty to drink and eat, but they had no bread (they couldn't grow wheat since they were on the move). *Result? Murmuring!*

Exodus 16:1-2 And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

The purpose in all this once again was **"that I may prove them."** **v.4b** We should now read *"I will rain fire and brimstone from heaven upon you because of your constant grumbings."* But instead we read: **"I will rain bread from heaven for you...!"** The grace and mercy of God! (cf. Rom. 5:8) Instead of justice and judgment He sends provision for their needs and desires. He rains manna from heaven!

ILLUS.: He could have sent money instead of manna, but you can't eat money! There were no super-markets in the wilderness of Sin. But exactly what was this "bread from heaven"? **It was a graphic picture of the Word of God...**

I. THE MANNA WAS A SUPERNATURAL GIFT:

A. It Was Not An Earthly Product: **"...from heaven"**

1. It appeared supernaturally with the morning dew.
2. It was there all the time – winter and summer.
3. It was unexplainable from the natural standpoint.

ILLUS.: The Liberals try to explain the manna naturally. But if it was a natural substance how come on Friday each week for forty years (!) a double portion showed up? v.5 How come it bred worms if left overnight EXCEPT on Fridays? v.20 It melted if not gathered daily! v.21

For forty years every day but Saturday two million plus Jews gathered manna. Each day 4500 tons (!) was gathered and eaten. Every day the equivalent of ten freight trains with thirty cars each and fifteen tons per car pulled up and unloaded and fed the Israelites **"to the full."** **!!! v.35** The total is approximately one million tons per year for forty years!

God's Word – our manna – is an inexhaustible supply of spiritual food for the believer today.

B. It Was Not an Egyptian Product:

1. It came from God to His chosen people, the Jews. (There is no manna in Egypt – Alexandria!)
2. The world has written nothing to rival or compare to the Bible.

II. THE MANNA WAS AN ACCESSIBLE GIFT:

Exodus 16:14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

- A. Its Accessibility Determined Their Responsibility!
 - 1. They must gather it or trample it underfoot.
 - 2. Availability incurs responsibility and that increases accountability.

ILLUS.: God's Word is available to anyone willing to seek it. And once they find it they are accountable for its contents.

III. THE MANNA WAS A SEEMINGLY INSIGNIFICANT GIFT: (cf. v.14 above)

- A. It Was Small in Size: "...small"
 - 1. The totality of God's revelation to man can be placed in a man's pocket or a lady's purse.
 - 2. But, like manna, it contains all the sustenance a man needs.
- B. It Was Symmetrical In Design: "...round"
 - 1. There were no angles, and no rough edges.
 - 2. God's Word is perfect, whole, complete, and entire.
- C. It Was White in Color:

Exodus 16:31 *And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.*

Psalms 12:6 *The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.*

Psalms 119:140 *Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.*

Proverbs 30:5 *Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.*

God's Word (KJB) has no mistakes, imperfections, contradictions or errors.

IV. THE MANNA WAS A COMPLETELY DIGESTIBLE GIFT:

- A. It Was Food to Be Eaten:
 - 1. It was not just to be looked at, or admired, but to be appropriated.
 - 2. There are three stages in the eating process:
 - a. Appropriation: I must take enough for me.

Exodus 16:21 *And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.*

ILLUS.: I cannot eat everything on a well spread table. I take a portion just for me. It depends on my appetite. Example: A godly saint had inscribed a T or TP besides the promises in her Bible. She explained to her pastor that the T meant "tried" and the TP meant "tried and proven." That is appropriation.

- b. Mastication: Meditation is to reading what mastication is to eating.

ILLUS.: Many give their stomachs work their teeth were intended to do. Food thoroughly chewed supplies more nutrition to the body than that swallowed hurriedly, whole or only partially masticated.

- c. Assimilation: The result of appropriation and mastication.

NOTE: The Scriptures must be translated into daily food for the soul.

V. THE MANNA WAS A SUFFICIENT GIFT:

- A. It Had to Be Gathered Daily: v.4
- B. It Had to Be Gathered in The Morning: v.8

NOTE: A fresh supply had to be gathered each day in the morning before other things occupied their attention and they missed out on God's provision – before it melted.

C. It Had to Be Gathered By Labor:

1. They didn't have to labor to bring it from heaven, but they had to gather it after it was provided.
2. It did not fall into their mouths; diligence is the virtue and work.

2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

D. It Had to Be Gathered By Stooping:

1. It did not grow on trees but fell on the ground.
2. To get its nourishment the Israelites had to get on their knees.
3. It wasn't just diligence but dependence that was necessary.

E. It Had to Be Gathered Individually:

Exodus 16:17-18 *And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less. And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.*

1. Some gathered little, some gathered much.
2. Few learn to master the whole Bible, and there are different levels of spiritual growth and maturity.

F. It Had to Be Gathered to Be Used:

1. It could not be hoarded but had to be turned into present profit.
2. We must feed ourselves first, then we can share blessings.

VI. THE MANNA WAS AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE GIFT:

Exodus 16:15 *And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.*

- A. Like Spiritual Truths to A Natural Man
- B. Unlike Anything Else They Had Ever Witnessed
- C. Despised By the Mixed Multitude (Carnal believers and unsaved)

Numbers 11:4-6 *And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.*

VII. THE MANNA WAS A PRESERVED GIFT:

Exodus 16:33 *And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.*

A. It Was Stored in A Golden Pot:

Hebrews 9:4 *Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;*

1. This speaks of the Divine estimate and value of the manna.
2. It couldn't be kept in tents for a day by man, but it was preserved in a golden pot by the Lord.

B. It Was Stored Until Canaan Was Reached:

Exodus 16:35 *And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.*

1. We will have the written Word until we meet the Living Word, and even then we are told that God will preserve it for **"...the Word of the Lord endureth forever."**

CONCL.: God has indeed rained "bread from heaven" upon us. His Word and words are a unique treasure of inestimable value and inexhaustible supply.

It is through this "bread from heaven" that we are saved and also nourished! **"Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And labor for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me and eat ye that which is good and let your soul delight itself in fatness."** **Is. 55:2**



WHEN IT RAINED BREAD FROM HEAVEN – II

TEXTS: **Exodus 16:4** *Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.*

John 6:32-33 *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

THESIS: To set forth manna as a picture of the LIVING WORD, Jesus Christ.

INTRO.: A. What is said of the Word of God written can nearly always be said of the Word of God living, except for size and shape. Therefore, if the manna is a picture of the Bible, then it is also a picture of Christ. In fact Christ specifically stated the manna was a foreshadow of Himself.

John 6:47-51 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. 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.*

John 6:58 *This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.*

B. The Person and perfections of Christ are set forth in picture form in the manna in the wilderness. In the written Word we should discover the Living Word on every page: **"In the volume of the book it is written of Me."** **"Search the Scriptures...they are they which testify of Me."** **"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the**

Scriptures the things concerning Himself." "All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and in the Psalms, concerning Me."

I. THE MANNA WAS A UNIQUE GIFT:

A. The Occasion of Its Giving Was Striking:

1. It was given at a time of rebellion. **(Rom. 5:8)**
2. It was followed by great blessing.

NOTE: As God had dealt graciously with Israel throughout history they nevertheless refused to walk in His path. Thus God sent His Son also to those in rebellion against Him.

Romans 1:21-23 *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

B. The Place Of Its Giving Was Symbolic: **"...the Wilderness of Sin"** (the name & shame of the place)

1. He came to a world of sin and exposed it.
2. His murder demonstrated how sinful Jew and Gentile alike were.

C. The Manner of Its Giving Was Significant:

John 6:31-33 *Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*

1. It came down from heaven, it was not produced or manufactured by human skill.
2. It was a free gift from God; not a wage paid or a prize to be won.
 - a. It was a token of love. (Jn. 3:16)
 - b. It was a token of grace. (Jn. 6:31)
3. It was associated with the glory of God.

Exodus 16:10 *And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.*

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

- a. The verse in Exodus 16 is the first mention of God's glory in Scripture.
- b. Not till Christ came in the flesh was the glory of the Lord fully revealed.

Matthew 17:1-4 *And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart. And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.*

D. The Direction of Its Giving Was Simple:

1. It was sent to the Israelites.

Exodus 16:4 *Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.*

John 1:11 *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

2. It was sent to meet a recognized need. **"...no bread"**

II. THE MANNA WAS AN UNUSUAL GIFT:

A. Its Presence Was Obvious:

Exodus 16:13-14 *And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.*

Romans 10:6-8 *But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;*

1. It lay just outside each tent door (Christ is at the heart's door).
2. It was available to everyone ("*whosoever will may come...*")

B. Its Provision Was Wonderful:

1. It fell on the dew, not on the dust.

Numbers 11:9 *And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.*

ILLUS.: "Dust" speaks of the fallen human nature...His body was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The Lord shared our humanity, but not our corrupt natures.

2. It fell daily, in sufficient quantity for all.
 - a. It was available, but had to be appropriated.
 - b. Christ died for all, but saves only those who appropriate Him. *Jn. 1:12*
3. It spoke of the Person of Christ in its appearance: "*white...sweet...pure...fresh oil...*"

Exodus 16:31 *And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.*

4. It spoke of the work of Christ in its preparation: "*ground...beat...baked*"

Numbers 11:8 *And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.*

ILLUS.: The Bible speaks of Christ sighing, groaning, being troubled, weeping, a man of sorrows, beaten, bruised, scourged and crucified.

5. It was called "*angels food.*"

Psalms 78:25 *Man did eat angels' food: he sent them meat to the full.*

NOTE: Christ even satisfies the desires of celestial beings. The unfallen angel's chief delight is feeding on Him. He gave them their life and they worship, serve, and tell forth His praises.

III. THE MANNA WAS AN UNPOPULAR GIFT:

A. It Was Despised by The Unsaved Mixed Multitude

Numbers 11:4-6 *And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.*

B. It Was Rejected by Some Israelites

Numbers 21:5-6 *And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.*

C. It Was Sent During the Night:

1. While men were sleeping, God sent the manna; a picture of man's helplessness & dependence on God's provision.
2. Men were in spiritual darkness when Christ came to earth; men often despise God's plan of salvation because he is unable to contribute something himself.

Revelation 2:17 *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna...*

CONCL.: Christ is life to the unsaved and the hidden source of sustenance to the believer. God promised the Israelites that He would put none of the diseases of Egypt on His people and then He provided the perfect food to protect them, please them, and perfect them.

Christ is our Manna come down from heaven!