

Manna From Heaven

Introduction. In Exodus 16, the Israelites were given the riches of material provision in the form of manna. There are so many comparisons between this gift and the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Like Him, the manna was divine in origin, indispensable, undeserved, suitable, sufficient, satisfying, and free. Let's look at several similarities between the episode in the wilderness and the redemption we have in Christ.

I. ***The Depravity Of Man***

- A. "And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness" (Exodus 16:2). In verse 7, Moses stated that their murmurings against he and Aaron were really murmurings against the Lord.
- B. God made man upright, but he has made himself sick with sin (Ecclesiastes 7:29; Psalm 58:3; Isaiah 1:5-6). Simply put, man is not born in sin. Like the prodigal son, the Israelites loved the gift more than the Giver (Luke 15:12; cf. Numbers 14:22).

II. ***The Mercy Of God***

- A. "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" (Exodus 16:4). It was amazing grace that could rain manna down upon murmurers. Why not fire and brimstone (Genesis 19:24; Isaiah 53:8)?
- B. Grace delights to pour blessings upon the undeserving (Romans 5:8). Our God "delighteth in mercy" (Micah 7:18). Grace has brought us salvation and grace teaches us to put away the sinful life (Titus 2:11-14). The bread of life can only come from heaven; it cannot be manufactured on the earth (John 6:31-35).

III. ***The Abundance Of Supply***

- A. "This is the thing which the Lord hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents" (Exodus 16:16). The manna which fell from heaven was sufficient for every man, woman, and child in the wilderness.
- B. In Christ there is enough for everyone (1 John 2:2; Hebrews 2:9; 7:27; 9:26; 10:10, 12). What are we doing to carry God's omer of blessing to the lost? In one respect, the bread of life is just like the miracle of the loaves. After multitudes have been filled it will be found that there is much more to spare (Matthew 14:20).

IV. ***The Need Of Responsibility***

- A. "And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted" (Exodus 16:21). The manna rained down from heaven, but it was not poured down their throats.
- B. There are three points that need to be mentioned:
 - 1. It had to be gathered. God freely gave His Son but that gift must be received (Roman 10:15-16; 6:17-18).
 - 2. They gathered it every morning. It was daily bread and Christ must be daily trusted and obeyed (Mark 13:13; 2 Timothy 4:7; Revelation 2:10).
 - 3. They gathered as much as they could eat. We are blessed if we remain hungry and thirsty for righteousness (Matthew 5:6).

V. ***The Disappointment Of Unbelief***

- A. "And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none" (Exodus 16:27). It was folly to expect to find the gift of God when God said it would not be found (vs. 25).
- B. The children of those infidel Israelites are still among us, hoping for salvation after the day of grace is gone.
 - 1. Most American "Evangelicals" believe in what is called a "Pre-Tribulation" rapture.
 - 2. According to this view, "Christians" will be removed before the Tribulation. This gives those who have not obeyed a second chance.
- C. There will be a time when it will be too late (Matthew 25:12; Luke 16:25), and now is our accepted time of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2).

VI. ***The Life Of Faith***

- A. "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" (Exodus 16:35; cf. Joshua 5:12). The bread kept them alive during all their wilderness journey.
- B. They believed that tomorrow's bread would come with tomorrow's need. We know that God is faithful (1 Corinthians 1:9; 10:13). Paul tells us further that we walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). When Paul prayed three times for the thorn in the flesh to be removed, he was told, "My grace is sufficient for thee" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Therefore, we are to live our lives in full faith and assurance of God's care (Hebrews 11:13-16).

Conclusion. Romans 15:4 says, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and

comfort of the scriptures might have hope." I pray that we will learn from this passage in the Old Testament to more perfectly see the truth we have been given from above. If you need to obey and partake of the bread of life by your obedience, don't delay.