

Bread from Heaven Exodus 16:1-10

We said a good bit about water for the Israelite travelers last time. Some food was provided them because of the date trees at Elim, and there may have been other edible things we are not told about. In any event, once in the Wilderness of Sin, the absence of food became an issue. At this point God sent them the now famous “manna,” which fed them for the next 40 years. It was truly bread from heaven, for nothing on earth could match it, and once it stopped nothing like it ever came again. It was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. (16:31)

I. **Do Not Work for the Food which Perishes** (Jn 6:27) 1

- A. In most cases people without food perish (think Stalin and the Ukrainians).
- B. At the same time it is possible to have plenty of food and still perish spiritually.
- C. Jesus was accosted by well-fed people who demand He repeat the Exodus wonder.
- D. The manna rain was meant to teach that man does not live by bread alone. (Deut. 8:3)
- E. Jesus warned the people of His day to seek the bread that does not perish. (Jn 6:27)

II. **He Hears Your Grumbings against the LORD** 7

- A. As I pointed out some time ago, the Israelites were notoriously capricious (fickle).
- B. Being hungry, they accused God, who saved them from Pharaoh, of intending to kill them. 3
- C. Make no mistake; God hears with disgust our utterances of unbelief and rebellion.
- D. It is a testimony to God's faithfulness and patience that He bears with such accusations.
- E. Every idle word will be remembered in the Day of Judgment. (Matthew 12:36)

III. **I Will Rain Bread from Heaven for You** 4

- A. The later provision of quail shows that God could have provided conventional food. (16:13)
- B. The manna (angels' food) means a treat worthy of the most noble beings, i.e., angels.
- C. Manna is probably derived from the Hebrew word “what?” or “What is it.” (מה)
- D. Manna was life-saving food and was meant to help everyone feed spiritually on Jesus. (Jn 6:41)
- E. We feed spiritually on Jesus through the sacrament (LS) and at all times by faith (a test, 4).

IV. **The Glory of the LORD Appeared in the Cloud** 10

- A. The cloud continued to lead them, but most of the time the glory of the Lord was hidden.
- B. At Mt. Horeb a frightening taste of the glory of God will precede the giving of the Law.
- C. But in the approaches to the mountain, God give them an early revelation. (I am the Lord 12)
- D. The Israelites have yet to fear the Lord properly and must be further instructed
- E. When we start grumbling at the Lord, He may decide to show us glory in judgment.

V. **My Food Is to Do the Will of Him Who Sent Me** (Jn 4:34) 3-4

- A. We started with Jesus' comments on manna from heaven and close with related thoughts.
- B. At the well of Jacob a weary Jesus spoke with His disciples (Jn 4) about the food He valued.
- C. God provides strength for our bodies when we are doing His will.
- D. The Lord indeed cares about starving people, but more about starving souls. (seek first KOG)
- E. When you pray, “Give us this day our daily bread,” include the bread that does not perish.