

Title: The Manna and the Bread from Heaven

Scripture: Ex 16: 11-18, 31; John 6: 28-35

Date: 6-7-2009

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Read Ex 16: 11-18, 31; John 6: 28-35.

Proposition: This morning we will look at a few ways that the manna in the wilderness is a picture of Christ the Bread from heaven.

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. 15: And when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said one to another, *It is* manna: for they wist not what it *was*.

I. MANNA WAS A STRANGE, MYSTERIOUS THING TO THE ISRAELITES.

A. What can be more mysterious than God coming down, incarnate, in human flesh!

I Timothy 3: 16: And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

1. He who made the world was in the world.

John 1: 10: He was in the world, and the world was made by him

2. He who made woman was made of a woman.

Galatians 4: 4: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5: To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

3. The living God became a man and dwelt among us, numbered with transgressors, subject to the same trials and temptations we have, yet without sin.

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.

Hebrews 4: 14: Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. 15: For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. 16: Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

4. The bread which came down in the wilderness came down with no help from men--no plowing, not planting, no reaping. That is how the Son of God was conceived and born into this world.

Isaiah 7: 14: Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Luke 1: 30: And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31: And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32: He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34: Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35: And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Just as that manna which came down from heaven was a mystery to those in Israel, so the incarnation of the Son of God, the Bread From Heaven is a great mystery.

B. The manna came down in the dew.

1. Likewise, Christ the Bread feeds the hungry soul through the dew of the gospel we preach. **Deuteronomy 32:2: My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:**

Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Isaiah 55:10: For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.

II. MANNA WAS A 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. The Son of God is the gift from God the Father.

Moses gospel was my gospel, "This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat."

Those who rejected Christ in favor of the law of Moses--claiming to follow the same gospel which Moses preached and yet laboring for what they thought was bread: **John 6: 30: They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? 31: Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. 32: 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.** They did not believe God or Moses: Moses gospel agreed with

and glorified Christ, "This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat." The Lord said, "My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven."

Illustration: What did the Lord say to the Samaritan woman? John 4:10: Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

B. Christ Jesus is the unspeakable gift of God's love.

John 3: 13: And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven. 14: And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16: For God so loved the world, (for in this manner God loved the world) that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

- In this manner God so loved the world, he gave his Son to be lifted up in the room and stead of his people
- He gave his Son to be made a curse for us
- He gave his Son to die the just for the unjust

Illustration: Men can speak of God's love all they want, but attempting to come to God in their decision for Christ, by looking to their religious deeds, by speaking so highly of what believer's must do--they reject God's love--God's love is in his Son alone.

I John 4: 9: In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 10: Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins,

Ephesians 1:6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

I John 4: 19: We love him, because he first loved us.

C. Eternal life is the gift of God in Christ Jesus the Bread From Heaven.

1. Are you working for a righteousness? For justification? For sanctification? To free your self from your sin? To make your self acceptable to God? Do you labor for that bread? Or are you truly hungry? Eternal life is a gift, it can't be bought.

Isaiah 55: 1: Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2: Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which* is not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye *that which* is

good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. **3: Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.**

Romans 6: 23: For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I John 5: 11: And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

III. THE MANNA MET THE NEED OF THOSE WHO WERE HUNGRY ENOUGH TO EAT IT.

Exodus 16: 16: 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.

A. Everyone in the camp of Israel was starving.

Illustration: There is a profound lesson in hunger--the rich will starve same as the poor without bread; the old and the young will starve without bread. No one exempt--all will starve without the bread!

B. Likewise, all men are sinners starved of God's righteousness therefore all men will die without Christ the Bread.

John 6:53: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

1. Christ is the only Savior and the only Bread.

Ephesians 5:23: For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

2. But the manna filled every one who ate.

Exodus 16: 17: And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less. 18: 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.

- Believer's feed on Christ the Bread daily.
- Those strong in faith have "nothing over" and those who have weak faith "have no lack"
- Christ is sufficient so that we never go hungry.

John 6: 35: And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst....**53:** Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. **54:** Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. **55:** For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. **56:** He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. **57:** As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. **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. **59:** These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

Illustration: Those who are full do not care to eat, but those who are hungry must eat. A porterhouse steak does not look good to a full man; but a cracker is like fine dining to a man who is starving. Take of Christ the Bread and you shall never hunger or thirst again spiritually.

IV. THE MANNA WAS PLEASANT TO THE TASTE.

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.

Question: Are there certain foods that are so good to you that you just can't get enough of it?

Psalms 119:103: How sweet are thy words unto my taste! *yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!

Proverbs 24: 13: My son, eat thou honey, because *it is* good; and the honeycomb, *which is* sweet to thy taste: **14:** So *shall* the knowledge of wisdom *be* unto thy soul: when thou hast found *it*, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

1 Peter 2:2: As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: **3:** If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

V. FIFTHLY, HERE ARE FEW WAYS THE MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS DIFFERS IN TYPE FROM CHRIST THE BREAD FROM HEAVEN.

A. Manna was food for the outward man, the flesh, only; Christ is the bread of eternal life for the inward soul.

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. Manna rotted if kept too long, it ceased when they entered into Canaan; Christ Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. In glory he will be our Bread forever. (Heb 13.)

Conclusion

In the wilderness, they marveled over this bread at first. But then they got tired of having ONLY manna, because they did not have the variety that they lusted after, they even counted it as having no bread: **Numbers 21: 5: 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.***

Of those professing disciples who followed after Christ, the same occurred when Christ made it clear that they must cease from all and only believe on Christ and that they could not even do that unless the Father gave it to them, so we read: **John 6: 60: Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? 61: When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? 62: *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? 63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life. 64: But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. 65: And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. 66: From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.**

But not Moses, not Aaron, or Caleb or Joshua, not the apostles, and not those he has fed here today! **John 6: 67: Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? 68: Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. 69: And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.**

A GRAND APPLICATION

If you are looking for Christ to tell you what to do so you can see a sign in your works or in the outward obedience of others, or if you need something else other than the person of Christ to persuade you to trust him alone, then this application will be nothing like what you are accustomed to and will seem as absurd as it did to those to whom Christ spoke in John 6. But if you believe on Christ by his grace, this application will be of great practical instruction and encouragement to you. This is what Christ our King, our sweet Psalmist says to you and I who trust him. May he say it effectually in many hearts this hour:

Psalm 34: 8: O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him.

And here is his promise to you who have tasted and seen that the LORD is good:

Revelations 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.

Amen!