

A Heavenly Blessing Exodus 16:13-21, 31

A. Background

1. Israel is about 2 ½ months into their wilderness journey. They left Egypt with food but now the food has run out and they are hungry.
2. They begin to complain against Moses and Aaron for leading them into the wilderness to die.
3. God views the complaints as being against Him and He intercedes.
Lesson: Beware of complaining against God's appointed and anointed leadership because God takes it personally.
Example: David understood that only God had the right to dethrone Saul.
4. God provided both meat and bread.
 - a. Quails are migrating birds and apparently stopped in the camp to rest. They were easily captured and eaten.
Lesson: God can use natural means to provide us with a blessing. For example, He can use our education, talent and preparation to open doors.
 - b. Then God manifested bread on the ground when the dew cleared.
Lesson: So God can also use supernatural methods to bless us. He can go above and beyond the boundaries of logic and physical laws to bless us.

B. A Strange Blessing (v 15)

1. They did not know what the substance was on the ground because they had never seen such a thing before.
 - a. Manna literally means, "What is it?"
Lesson: God can bless us in ways that we have never been blessed before.
2. They saw the substance (manna/blessing) was manifested. Yet they did not move or react.
Lesson: When we don't understand our blessing we cannot fully appreciate or utilize it.
Example: Job offer with Southwest Airlines
3. Then Moses stepped forward and said this is bread from heaven.
 - a. God will send a prophet, pastor, teacher, or godly man/woman to tell you what this is a blessing from the Lord.

Lesson: God customizes our blessings according to our circumstances.

Example: Bishop Arnold wears custom made suits that I like but they will not fit me.

C. A Sufficient Blessing (v 18)

1. Measure means “the process to determine the amount, capacity, or dimensions.”
2. When they measured the manna it was **sufficient in quantity**. Everyone ate and there was no want nor was there any wasted.
 - a. The purpose of the manna was to test their obedience and faith in God.
 - b. They had to gather the manna every day except the Sabbath.
 - c. Any manna left over would spoil and stink.
3. The manna was **sufficient quality**.
 - a. The manna had the nutritional value it needed. It contained all the vitamins, minerals, proteins, carbohydrates and fats they needed for a healthy diet.
 - b. The people ate this manna for 40 years in the wilderness. Deuteronomy states their feet did not swell during that time in the wilderness. A medical missionary stated that one cause of feet swelling in the East is improper diet.
4. The manna was **sufficient in flavor**.
 - a. The Bible said it tasted like honey. Yet, some wished for the taste of the foods from Egypt.

Lesson: God used the manna to *test their obedience* – they had to gather in the morning and could not gather on the Sabbath. God *tested their faith* because each day they had to gather that day’s provision.

D. A Seasonal Blessing (v 21)

1. We must understand that any particular blessing is just for a season. Material blessings are temporary and then it will disappear.

Lesson: God blesses us with opportunities but only for a certain amount of time. We must take advantage of the opportunities while they exist.

 - a. Every morning they had to gather the manna. God provided it but the people had to gather and cook it.
2. When the sun got hot the manna melted.
 - a. That opportunity to gather manna was over.
 - b. So if you ever slept you were out of luck.

E. Conclusion

1. The manna of the Old Testament is symbolic of Jesus.

a. Jesus said He was the **“Bread of Life”**.

b. The manna pictures Christ because:

- It came down from **heaven** - He came down from **heaven**.
- It was **small** – His **humility** (He became a baby)
- It was **round** – The circle represents His **eternity**
- It was **white** – Reminds us of His purity or **holiness**
- It was **sweet** – “Taste and see that the Lord is good”
- It was **pressed, messed, and beaten** – His sacrifice at **Calvary**
- It was baked and **rose** – Signifies His **resurrection** and **ascension**
- It would **re-appear** the next day – **He is coming again**