

Exodus 16 Manna and Quail

Exodus 16: 1-8 Israel left Elim, with springs, trees, and food, and set out into the wilderness of Sin, an area between Elim and Sinai, going south away from the land of Canaan. The Hebrew people began to grumble against Moses and Aaron as they have no food and probably are questioning their going deeper into the desert away from Canaan. As they complained against godly leadership, they are actually complaining against God.

Read Hebrews 3: 7-11 Their sin was gluttony and unbelief. They also dreamed of things being better in Egypt, with unlimited meat and bread, than trusting the Lord. They had seen His mighty hand at work, but they could not visualize how He could provide for them in the desert.

God provides manna, bread from heaven. Just as Christ fed the multitudes, and He is the true Bread of Heaven, so were the Hebrews fed daily by God's provision. They are called to trust God and to walk in His ways and by His law.

Exodus 16: 9-21 The Lord heard the grumbling of the people and sent them manna in the morning and quail in the evening. Some gathered too much, some too little. All were provided for. However, those who attempted to gather more for the next day, there arose a great and horrible smell in their tents as the manna spoiled.

Exodus 16: 21-30 The people were instructed to gather manna for six days, with extra on the sixth day, as the seventh day was a Sabbath to the Lord. Prepare on the sixth day to rest on the Sabbath. Six days they were to gather as there would be no manna to gather on the Sabbath. This pattern of work and rest prepared the people that would be fully revealed to them in the Fourth Commandment. The people began to see that they were living under God's grace, just as the manna was provided and did not spoil on the sixth day as they gathered extra for the Sabbath. The people tried to gather on the Sabbath, but there was none. They began to rest on the Sabbath.

Exodus 16: 31-36 The Lord gave instructions that about the equivalent of a two-liter bottle of manna be kept as a memorial before the Lord. This would later take greater significance when the Lord gave them the tablets of the Law. This continued for forty years until they came to the border of the Land of Canaan.