

Seeing Only Jesus

11) Bread From Heaven? Really?

'Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come' (1 Cor.10:1-11)

'Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness... And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord; for He hears your complaints against the Lord. But what are we, that you complain against us?' Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the Lord hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the Lord"'

(Ex.16:2,7-9)

- ✓ The Israelites traveled for one month into the wilderness and consumed all the grain they brought out from Egypt
- ✓ They murmured because they had no bread, and blamed Moses and Aaron. They forgot the miracle of the Exodus
- ✓ Yet, instead of raining fire and brimstone, God said, *'I will rain bread from heaven for you'*
- ✓ God fed them miraculously by sending quails in the evening and manna in the morning

- ✓ **As they were saved from Egypt so we have been saved from the world**
- ✓ **And, as they soon discovered that the resources they brought out of Egypt dried up, so we are aware that our fleshly resources will never sustain us, and worldly things will never satisfy us in this wilderness**
- ✓ **We need the Bread of heaven**
- ✓ **Moses said, 'And in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord'**

- ✓ **This is the first mention of the glory of God**
- ✓ **The glory of the Lord was revealed when Christ came down from heaven to earth (John 1:14)**
- ✓ **Just like this manna, He is not a product of the earth, but a gift from heaven. He is the Bread of Heaven**
- ✓ ***'Men ate angel's food; He sent them food to the full' (Psa.78:25). 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God' (Rev.2:7)***

- ✓ ***'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat' (Rev.2:17)***
- ✓ ***'Then Moses said, "This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.' "And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations." As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept' (Ex.16:32-34)***

- ✓ **As bread nourishes the body so Christ, and Christ alone, nourishes, strengthens and encourages the soul**
- ✓ **The Israelites went in the strength of that bread each day for the whole of their pilgrimage**
- ✓ **He is to be found in the Word. The written Word brings us to the living Word, *'Behold I come; in the volume of this word it is written of Me'* (Heb.10:7)**

***'So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger,
and fed you with manna which you did not
know nor did your fathers know, that He
might make you know that man shall not live
by bread alone; but man lives by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord'***

(Deut.8:3)

We need to connect this passage to John 6

- ✓ *'I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world''' (Jn.6:51)*
- ✓ **Jesus said this after He had fed the 5,000.**
'Jesus answered them and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him''' (Jn.6:26-27)

The Jews said that Jesus did nothing special because Moses fed 2-3 million Israelites daily

'Therefore they said to Him, "What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"' Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world'
(Jn.6:30-33)

- ✓ **They said, 'Show us your credentials. Don't say the feeding of 5,000 because Moses did greater than this. Moses brought bread from heaven; you haven't. He fed millions every day. You fed 5,000 only once'**
- ✓ **Jesus answered: 1) It was not Moses, but God who gave the bread; 2) That bread was just a symbol of the living bread which only He could give. Even those in the wilderness despised the manna in the end. So don't follow Me for what you can get from Me but for Who I am**
- ✓ **Moses was a law-giver; Jesus is a life-giver. Moses gave bread; Jesus is the Bread**

***'Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst'
(John 6:34-35)***

As God gave bread to the Israelites in the wilderness, so He gives the true Bread of Heaven to His children today

1) It was everywhere

'So it was that quail came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp'

(Ex.16:13)

It was right where they were; all around the camp. They either gathered it or they trampled on it

**It was gathered by stooping
We receive with meekness the engrafted Word
of God**

2) There was more than enough

'This is the thing which the Lord has commanded: "'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, according to the number of persons; let every man take for those who are in his tent"' (Exodus 16:16)

If 2 million people had an omer (6 pints) every day that would mean 12 million pints were consumed; that is, over one million tons every year for 40 years

There is grace for all of God's people for all their lifetime

3) It was a mystery, but they didn't need to understand it before they ate it

'So when the children of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was'
(Ex.16:4)

They called it 'manna'. Either because the Hebrew for 'What is it?' is man hu. Or, because manan means, 'this is a gift'; it was a gift from God

They didn't solve the mystery of it before they ate it

4) It was eaten everyday

***'So they gathered it every morning,
every man according to his need. And
when the sun became hot, it melted'
(Ex.16:21)***

**It was their daily bread to equip them for
their entire journey, but that journey
was taken one day at a time**

**It had to be eaten early before it
evaporated**

5) There was fresh bread every day

'And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning"'
(Ex.16:19)

They were not to hoard it, as if there is only enough for today but not for tomorrow

We can't live off past blessings, experiences, etc. The bread came down every day. Jesus is fresh, real every day

6) The Sabbath had its own provision

'See! For the Lord has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day'''
(Ex.16:29)