

## **Exodus 16: Food From Heaven**

### I. 1-3: The Complaint.

From the Desert of Shur the Israelites one month later entered the Desert of Sin between Elim and Sinai. Their hunger and anticipation of starvation caused them people to forget their horrible plight in Egypt, to think only of the food they had in Egypt; they looked back at only the food they enjoyed in Egypt.

### II. 4-12: The LORD's Response.

***I will rain meat in the evening and bread in the morning from heaven.*** The people were to see the glory/appearance of God. The people will gather what is enough for everyday; there was a test on the sixth day, gathering twice as much for the seventh day as there wasn't going to be any on the seventh day.

### III. 13-36: Quail and Bread From Heaven.

The LORD heard their complaints and provides; Quail, low flying delicious birds and Manna.

***Numbers 11:8*** ... they ground it on millstones or beat it in the mortar, cooked it in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil.

Jewish legends narrate that "One only had to desire a certain dish, and no sooner had he thought of it, than manna had the flavor of the dish desired. The same food had a different taste to everyone who partook of it, according to his age; to the little children, it tasted like milk, to the strong youths like bread, to the old men like honey, to the sick like barley steeped in oil and honey." (Ginzberg).

The purpose for giving the bread from heaven was not only to provide for the material needs of Israel, but also to teach them eternal lessons of dependence on God.

***Deuteronomy 8:3*** - 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.

***Matthew 6:11*** – Give us this day, our daily bread.

**Isaiah 55:1-2** - *Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters, and you who have no money; come, buy, and eat; yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread? and your labour for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance.*

This manna, this bread from heaven, is a powerful picture of Jesus Himself. After the feeding of the 5,000 Jesus had a discussion with people who wanted Him to keep on feeding them with His miraculous power. They wanted Jesus to provide for them just as Israel was provided for with manna in the wilderness. This is what Jesus said in reply:

**John 6:26-27**- *Jesus answered them and said, Most assuredly, I say to you, You seek me, not because you saw the miracles, but because you did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give to you: for God the Father has set His seal on Him.*

**John 6:32-35** - *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. Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this 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.*

Jesus is the bread from heaven, and we have to receive Him like Israel received the manna.