



THE SIGNAL

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HEAVENLY MANNA

"And they gathered it [the manna] every morning, every man according to his eating..." [Exodus 16:21]

After the children of Israel were brought out of Egyptian slavery, the Lord brought them to the wilderness around Mt. Sinai on the eastern shore of the Red Sea. There the whole congregation (upwards of two million people) was tired, upset, grumpy, and hungry coming out of Egypt. They began to recall the different foods they had enjoyed in Egypt, over-emphasizing that part of their former lives. They seemed to minimize the bondage, beatings, untenable work expectations, and the misery of being enslaved.

They began to question Moses' and Aaron's leadership and accused them of leading them out of Egypt to kill them in the wilderness. God graciously "looked beyond their fault and saw their need" and promised to give them food from heaven every morning, and meat every evening. This would be a miraculous provision from the Lord, and it would be a test to see if they would believe and obey.

One has noted this: "In our pilgrim journey through life, we live on promises and not on explanations. The ways and plans of God are far above us, and His wisdom is unsearchable. Explanations don't heal broken hearts, but promises do, because promises depend on faith, and faith puts us in contact with the grace of God. The important thing is to focus on the glory of God and not on our appetites and desires. When we walk by faith we glorify the Lord and bring honor to Him. It isn't important that we are comfortable in this life, but it is all important that God is glorified." (Wiersbe, *Exodus*, p. 172)

It is far better to be free in Canaan than to be a slave in Egypt. The manna that the Lord provided for His people is a beautiful type of the spiritual food He has provided for our souls. This food is the Word of God, which is the Lord Himself. Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." [John 6:35]

The manna was a supernatural gift from God. In Exodus 16:4 He tells Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you..." It was not a product of the earth; man didn't make it or come up with it. God sent it down from heaven. It had within it all that was needed to sustain their lives. The Bible is our spiritual food that has everything to sustain our inner man. Jesus said in Matthew 4:4 that "...Man shalt not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." The Bible is given to us from God by divine inspiration.

The manna was sent to where they were in the Wilderness of Sin. They didn't have to seek for it somewhere else; it came right to their tent door. Likewise, the Word of God is very accessible to us. But its accessibility does not relinquish us of our responsibility to avail ourselves of it. Just as they had to go out and gather the manna, so are we obliged to read, meditate, learn, memorize, and practice God's Word in our daily lives. To neglect it or to ignore it is a great crime.

Everything our soul needs is provided by God's Word. It is a library of sixty-six books readily accessible, portable, and suitable for our daily use. All that we need to know about being saved, growing in grace, and living godly lives is given in His Word. Believers of every generation have fed upon the same spiritual food. The Bible is perfect, complete, and entire.

The Word of God is pure without any admixture of non-essential things. Psalm 12:6 says, "The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

The manna was to be eaten as they gathered it daily. It wasn't just to be admired or kept as a relic. Likewise, the Word of God is to be our handbook for living and the compass by which to navigate the complexities of life in a fallen world. The blessed man of the first Psalm is described as this: "...his delight is in the Law of the Lord, and in His Law doth he meditate day and night." [Psalm 1]

They gathered the manna every morning. That denotes action, of being busily involved in the Word, and making it a part of daily life. That they gathered it daily denotes a systematic ongoing usage of God's Word for our souls. It is how our minds are renewed [Romans 12:7]. It was gathered early each day before anything else was done. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." [Matthew 6:33]

The manna was gathered by labor, which points to our study and application of it. It is by having God's Word in our hearts that we are kept from sinning against Him. Jeremiah 15:16 says, "Thy words were found and I did eat them; and Thy Word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart..."

Thank you for being our fellow-laborers in this great ministry of broadcasting God's Word. Would you join with us in asking the Lord to bless this endeavor and that He would supply all our need?

Your servant,
Chris Lamb

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GLEN IRIS
BAPTIST CHURCH

Christmas Cantata

DECEMBER 21
6:00 P.M.

