

Exodus 16:1-21 (KJV)

¹ And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which *is* between Elim and Sinai, on the **fifteenth day of the second month** after their departing out of the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the children of Israel **murmured** against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: ³ And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. ⁴ Then said the LORD unto Moses, **Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you;** and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. ⁵ And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare *that* which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. ⁶ And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: ⁷ And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your **murmurings** against the LORD: and what *are* we, that ye **murmur** against us? ⁸ And Moses said, *This shall be*, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your **murmurings** which ye **murmur** against him: and what *are* we? **your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.** ⁹ And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your **murmurings**. ¹⁰ And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, ¹² I have heard the **murmurings** of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD your God. ¹³ And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. ¹⁴ And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness *there lay* a small round thing, *as* small as the hoar frost on the ground. ¹⁵ And when the children of Israel saw *it*, they said one to another, *It is* manna: for they wist not what it *was*. And Moses said unto them, *This is* the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat. ¹⁶ *This is* the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, *according to* the number of your persons; take ye every man for *them* which *are* in his tents. ¹⁷ And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸ And when they did mete *it* with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating. ¹⁹ And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning. ²⁰ Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them. ²¹ And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

Bread from Heaven (1)

OUTLINE

- (1) Threatened with Hunger
- (2) Treated with Heavenly Food

INTRODUCTION

It is discovered that a man can exist about forty days without food, about three days without water, and only eight minutes without air. But in the spiritual realm of eternity, one late pastor observed well, “man cannot exist one second without Jesus Christ.”

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Whether in the physical or spiritual realm, we see the vulnerability of man in his make-up.

The psalmist truthfully admitted, *“My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.” (Psalm 102:11)*

Also, in **Psalm 90:10**, he analyses, *“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.”*

We see our need to be connected with our Creator and our need to be sustained by His merciful lifeline whatever be our circumstances in life.

We trace the early life of the nation of Israel when they left Egypt and the challenges that confronted them in their journey to the Promised Land.

We are reminded the words of the Apostle Peter to the church scattered all over Asia Minor, believers fleeing oftentimes due to persecution.

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.” 1 Peter 4:12

Adrian Rogers asked, “Has something bad happened to you and you said, “Oh me. What did I do? I must have done something terrible. Otherwise, this wouldn’t have happened!”

And before you knew it, you fell headlong into a pity party of morbid introspection--taking yourself apart piece by piece to see where you went wrong. If you’re like most people, you have.

But have you ever thought that maybe you’ve done absolutely nothing wrong, but God is simply testing your faith? This is an important truth for you to understand, because if you don’t, you may get discouraged. The seeds of doubt and discouragement sprout in the soil of ignorance.”

This was what happened to Israel 45 days after leaving Egypt. They ran out of food. Recall, when they left Egypt on the third day? They ran out of water. And the only supply of water available was contaminated and not drinkable.

The children of Israel began to fret and murmuring, they complained against God and His servants. This time when the food supply depleted, their murmuring spirit amplified even more. They seemed to have completely forgotten that they have just been freed from the burdens of slavery. It is a new beginning for them with all the promises of God given to them for their encouragement. Yet, they murmured. Indeed, the flesh is weak.

Hebrews 10:38 *Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*

They need to have just trusted God for their provision, seek the Lord to provide them their daily bread. Would the Lord not give?

Matthew 7:7-11 (KJV) ⁷ *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:* ⁸ *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth;*

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and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. ⁹Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

What must be our response in times of crisis? George Muller shared with us a sanctified response. He wrote in his autobiography in the year July 12th 1854, “Our means were now reduced to 30 pounds, as only about 150 pounds had come in since June 15. In addition to this, we had very heavy expenses before us. This morning, in reading through the book of Proverbs, when I came to chapter 22, 19, “*That thy trust may be in the Lord;*” I said in prayer to Him, “Lord, I do trust in Thee; but Wilt Thou now be pleased to help me; for I am in need of means for the current expenses of all the various Objects of the institution?” He testified, “By the first delivery of letters I received an order for 100 pounds, to be used “as the present need might require.” I took, therefore, 50 pounds for the support of the Orphans.” And he wrote under these circumstances I found great comfort in **Isaiah 26:3-4** *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:*

We often become discouraged and despondent as we examine our vulnerability but we must realise that these are opportunities for us to exercise faith that will be glory to God. When we see our answer to prayer, we prove the faithfulness of God by our faith in Him.

Two thoughts:

- (1) Threatened with Hunger**
- (2) Treated with Heavenly Food**

(1) Threatened with Hunger

¹ *And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the **fifteenth day of the second month** after their departing out of the land of Egypt. ² And the whole congregation of the children of Israel **murmured** against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: ³ And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.*

Unbelief is a deadly disease that discomfit the heart resulting in a straying departure from God.

The Apostle Paul exhorts us in **2 Corinthians 5:7** (*For we walk by faith, not by sight:*)

To walk by sight is to look at the environment and circumstances and vulnerabilities and wallow in despair. As one late pastor said, “Sometimes we complain and rather than being humbly grateful, we become grumbly hateful.”

Walking by faith means to continue to trust God for His care and humbly wait upon Him.

But it can be difficult to bear and wait when you are hungry, isn't it? This is the test of faith.

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Psalm 37:25-27 *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.*

Psalm 37:3-5 *Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

“The word “commit” is a banking term which means to put something with someone else for safe deposit. He will take care of you; you can bank on it.” [Adrian Rogers]

The Scriptural encouragement is to rest in the Lord’s care – count it all joy!

“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations.” James 1:2

Sometimes we have to admit that it’s hard to “count it all joy.”

When Job lost all that he had, he worshipped God.

Job 1:20-22 *Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.*

As we examine our circumstances, we realise that if we are in the will of God, as Israel was, it was God’s will that they leave Egypt, then they can trust God to take care of them along the way.

It could be that our affliction is due to our sin as the prodigal son was when he left his father’s house, then, when he came to himself, he repented and came back to the father.

Luke 15:16-23 *And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry:*

The response of faith is prayer.

Philippians 4:6-7 *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

Let the worry be turned to Jesus.

(2) Treated with Heavenly Food

⁴Then said the LORD unto Moses, **Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.** ⁵And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

Fanny Crosby, the hymn writer wrote in her autobiography, “I was determined to be content as circumstances would allow, and to hope for any good fortune that the future might have in store. To express my trust that all would be well, when I was eight or nine years old, I composed the following lines:

Oh, what a happy soul I am,
Although I cannot see,
I am resolved that in this world
Contented I will be.

How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't
To weep and sigh because I'm blind
I cannot nor I won't.

I am sure that my sentiment in these verses is more worthy than the poetic form. My dear mother at times became very sad because I was blind; and then grandmother would quote the lines of the grand old hymn of faith:

Though troubles and dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail and foes all unite;
Yet one thing assures us, whatever betide,
The Scripture assures us the Lord will provide.”

The Lord gave a most impossible proposition how Israel is going to be fed in the wilderness:

Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no ...

I will rain bread from heaven is the proposition from the Lord. How ludicrous! Yet, this is the food that will sustain them all their journey in the wilderness.

God will prove Himself faithful to the promise of His care. All Israel had to do was to go out each morning to gather in the bread from heaven.

When Jesus fed the 5000 with five loaves and two fishes, he said to them, I am the bread of life.

John 6:30-41 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that

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believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

Jesus clarified with the people, **John 6:26-27** *Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.*

May we see the proves of God's care in His Son Jesus Christ, the bread which came down from heaven and trust God care to help us through life. Amen.