

"Bread from Heaven"

Exodus 16

August 8, 2010
by C.W. Powell

Please have your Bibles open to Exodus 16.

I will not read this entire passage again. We read it a moment ago and there are some important things to say about it.

Peoples' memories are short. It may seem incredible that Israel could so soon forget the tremendous power and unlimited resources that God displaying in delivering them from Egypt, just a few weeks before. God had showed his absolute control over all creation: the time, the weather, the light, chemistry, physics, life and death. Even the hearts of men were in his hands and he hardened them or moved them as He pleased.

Why would Israel ever think that God could not supply them with food and water in the wilderness. He had just healed the water at Marah. But without faith the hearts of men are very hard.

Our horizons are very short and we limit the Most High God, a grievous sin that He often overlooks, not dealing with our blindness and unbelief as He could. He was long suffering to Israel, and He is long suffering to us.

I. The murmuring of Israel. The great sin of murmuring. 1-3 See 1Cor. 10:6-11 Warning to the churches. Murmuring is listed as a great sin along with fornication and idolatry,.

A. Against God. The sin of discontent or restlessness.

B. Against his servants: attribution of evil minds.

C. The wicked flee when no man pursues.

II. The giving of the Manna: bread from heaven, and quail. 4-15 By the mercy of God they were given for His compassions fail not.

A. The meaning of the Manna: See Deuteronomy 8:1-5 God would teach them that man's life is not from bread alone, but by every decree of God.

B. God will supply all your need. You do not need to break any of God's commandments in order to be fed.

C. God has provisions far above what He displays.

D. Why manna? Every day for forty years. To test and prove Israel.

E. Problem: men are not content with God's provisions and lust after Egypt. They would rather be slaves in Egypt than eat the bread of freedom.

III. The Sabbath day. This was a great addition to the meaning of whatever sabbath was before. Eternal sabbath: Psalm 95. Great Psalm on the Rest of the People of God. Here was the beginning of the incorporation of rest into the law of Moses. Even the covenant of works required rest for body and soul.

A. Predicts a future rest for the people of God: future from Psalm 96 "Today if you will hear his voice." Heb 4:7 with Psalm 95:7 Israel had not found real rest: neither in the 7th day nor in the land of Canaan.

B. What it is not: Hebrews 4

1. Rest of Creation; the seventh day of the week. Passed away in Christ.

2. Rest of Canaan: Joshua did not give them rest. Passed away in Christ.

C. Rest of Faith: Heb. 4:3, 11. The unrest of unbelief contrasted with the rest of faith.

D. It is in the heart primarily; not in the body: See Heb. 4:12. God will search out the restlessness in our souls—the discontent; the vexation of spirit. They erred in their hearts: [Ps. 95:10] they had not known God's ways.

E. We must labor to enter into that rest. "Cease from our works" Mortify the old man. Crucified with Christ, so that Christ can live in us. Resting in Christ means resting from your own works and giving yourself up to him every day and every hour.

F. Jesus said it plainly: Matt. 11:28-20 and the following material in chapter 12.

1. He is the rest promised in Psalm 95.

2. His yoke is easy and his burden is light.

3. He is the Lord of rest, and there is not rest that is not found in Him.

4. He is the true temple of God: to rest in Him is to rest indeed.

May God bless you. Amen and Amen.

Amen and Amen

God bless you.