

The manna ceased

*And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.
Joshua 5:12*

After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, this generation of the children of Israel had witnessed the miracle of God's power to stop the waters of the Jordan river, to allow them to follow Joshua across the dry river bed into the promised land of Canaan. Now after a renewal of the Mosaic covenant and keeping of their first Passover in this new land, Joshua and his people continued the ensuing feast the next day, eating the prescribed unleavened bread with the parched old corn of the new land. Then on the next day they witnessed another miracle from God, as seen in our text. The same power that had fed them daily with this strange "angel's food" for the last forty years had now taken it away. This miraculous provision, which their parents had complained about to Moses in the wilderness, had been this generation's primary sustenance for all of their lives in that wilderness on the other side of Jordan. But now it was time for a significant change. Now they would eat the substantial bread that God would provide through His deliverance of this land into their possession.

And so it is for the spiritual life of the believer in Christ. We may begin our journey as His disciples feasting on the manna of His grace. He nourishes us with the sincere milk of the Word as we desire it in our spiritual state as newborn babes. In our infancy and early childhood, that manna is sufficient to sustain our spirits. But the time must come where He causes the manna to cease. Let us not look back to wonder where it went. Instead, let us look forward to the substantial feeding on the deeper truths of the Word of God in the promised land of the fulness of His Spirit. It's time to equip for battle. That we be no more children..., but grow up into Him who is our head, even Christ, as He fits us together to do our part in His church body.