

## The Miracle of the Manna (Exodus 16:1-36)

The Narrative in Exodus 16, I must repeat, was not just given by God for the admonition of Israel, but is pinpointed in the New Testament **directly at our age today:**

**I Corinthians 10:10** Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

**I Corinthians 10:11** Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.



**Now, I count the words murmur, murmured, and murmurings, appearing eight times in the first twelve verses of chapter 16 of Exodus, as well as, appearing twice in our admonition found in I Corinthians 10. God is not happy when His people murmur against His servant used by God to lead His people out of, unto.**

But neither is God happy with Israel then, nor us today, if we are murmuring against God Himself. This murmuring, in its various forms, demonstrates the mindset of carnality, not the spiritual mindset. The Carnal mind will make the person thankless, faithless, and prone to exaggerated murmurings. These thoughts are a departure from God's pure Words of love and instruction to the person who has: (1) applied the Passover blood, (2) purged leaven and partaken in the unleavened bread, (3) delivered from Egypt (world), as well as, (4) being delivered through trials. In fact, the subsequent murmurings exhibit exaggerated complaining against the Deliverer while it demonstrates the obvious "pull of the Egypt (world)" on this individual. **This man's judgement is impaired while he is speaking falsehoods against God through unbelief. He does not believe God delivered him, but rather, God sent them out in the wilderness to die! This man, whether then or now, is utterly departing from God!** This man will not "enter into God's rest" unless he repents.

**Isaiah 59:11** We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.

**Isaiah 59:12** For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;

**Isaiah 59:13** In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

**Hebrews 3:7** Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

**Hebrews 3:8** Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

**Hebrews 3:9** When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

**Hebrews 3:10** Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

**Hebrews 3:11** So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

**Hebrews 3:12** Take heed, brethren, **lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.**

**Exodus 16:1** 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.

**Exodus 16:2** And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

**Exodus 16:3** 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.

## I. Murmuring

The word “murmur” appears eight times in Exodus 16. Every trial of Israel in this wilderness trek provides an opportunity for the nation to move forward spiritually and to grow in grace, or else it provides an opportunity for them to prove their carnality and obstinacy by departing from God. There is a much better way:

**Philippians 4:12** I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

**Philippians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**I Timothy 6:6** But godliness with contentment is great gain.

**I Timothy 6:7** For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

**I Timothy 6:8** And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

**I Timothy 6:9** But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

**I Timothy 6:10** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

**Hebrews 13:5** *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

**Hebrews 13:6** So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

**Hebrews 13:7** Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation.

**Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

### The Very Nature of Our and their Murmuring:

**A. Faithless (v. 1).** - It has only been 30 days since the Passover and exodus from Egypt. In one months' time they have seen the firstborn in Egypt slain while their own firstborn were not touched; they watched the Red Sea part and the Egyptian army overthrown with the sea, they also observed the bitter waters of Marah turned to sweet and then the leadership of the Lord that brought them to the oasis at Elim. In order to suggest that Moses brought them out there to die is to ignore and ultimately deny every miraculous evidence of God's faithfulness to them.

**B. Thankless (v. 2)** - Not only had they seen the mighty works of the Lord but they are still protected from the desert heat with a cloud by day, warmed from the cool temperatures with a fire by night, and no one is beating them, cursing them, or abusing them because they are no longer in bondage to the Egyptians. To murmur is to express utter unbelief in the deliverer and the deliverance.

**C. Murmuring is always exaggerated (v. 3).** Are we to believe that two-million slaves in bondage to a foreign enemy each sat day-by-day by the flesh pots and ate bread to the full? Of course not! Their accusation against Moses and Aaron is completely ridiculous. Most folks that constantly speak of how bad things are don't have things nearly as bad as they say.

**D. Murmuring is against the Lord (v. 7-8)** By God's reckoning, a sin against God's people (particularly God's representative) is accounted as a sin against God.

**1. Acts 9:3** And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

**Acts 9:4** And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

**Acts 9:5** And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: *it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

**2. I Thessalonians 4:6** That no *man* go beyond and defraud his brother in *any* matter: because that the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

**I Thessalonians 4:7** For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

**I Thessalonians 4:8** He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

**3. Matthew 10:40** He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

**Matthew 10:41** He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

**Matthew 10:42** And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

**4. John 13:20** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

**5. John 15:20** Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

## II. Testing - Remember they are a Type of Our Walk Today - Purpose of the Trials

**Deuteronomy 8:1** All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

**Deuteronomy 8:2** And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and* to prove thee, to know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

**Deuteronomy 8:3** And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

**Deuteronomy 8:4** Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

**Deuteronomy 8:5** Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

**Deuteronomy 8:6** Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

**Deuteronomy 8:7** For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;

**Deuteronomy 8:8** A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;

**Deuteronomy 8:9** A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any *thing* in it; a land whose stones *are* iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.

**Deuteronomy 8:10** When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

**Deuteronomy 8:11** Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:

**Deuteronomy 8:12** Lest *when* thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt *therein*;

**Deuteronomy 8:13** And *when* thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

**Deuteronomy 8:14** Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee

forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

**Deuteronomy 8:15** Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, *wherein were* fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where *there was* no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

**Deuteronomy 8:16** Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

**Deuteronomy 8:17** And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of *mine* hand hath gotten me this wealth.

**Deuteronomy 8:18** But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for *it is* he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as *it is* this day.

**Deuteronomy 8:19** And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

**Deuteronomy 8:20** As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God. the purpose of this wilderness trial: it will serve to test and test the condition of their heart.

**A. This testing begins because God is testing us specifically in three areas:**

1. To humble thee
2. To prove thee
3. To know what *was* in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no

**B. God works with His people during the trial. As we are tempted to sin, it is God's goodness that:**

**Romans 2:4** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

**Romans 2:5** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

**Romans 2:6** Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

**Romans 2:7** To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

**Romans 2:8** But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

C. Notice when the Bible talks about God's Goodness, Grace, and mercy, it immediately then outlines the recipient's responsibility:

1. **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

**Ephesians 2:9** Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2. **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

**Titus 2:12** Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

**Titus 2:13** Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

**Titus 2:14** Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

**Titus 2:15** These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

3. **Titus 3:3** For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, *and* hating one another.

**Titus 3:4** But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

**Titus 3:5** Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

**Titus 3:6** Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

**Titus 3:7** That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**Titus 3:8** *This is* a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

**Titus 3:9** But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

**Titus 3:10** A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;

**Titus 3:11** Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself.

#### D. Today, we rejoice even in manifold temptations:

**I Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**I Peter 1:4** To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

**I Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**I Peter 1:6** **Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season**, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

**I Peter 1:7** That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

### III. Miracle of the Manna

**Exodus 16:4** 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.

**Exodus 16:5** 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.

**Exodus 16:6** 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:

**Exodus 16:7** 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?

**Exodus 16:8** 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.

**Exodus 16:9** 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.

**Exodus 16:10** 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.



**Exodus 16:11** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

**Exodus 16:12** 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.

**Exodus 16:13** 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.

**Exodus 16:14** 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.*

**Exodus 16:15** 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.*

**Exodus 16:16** *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.*

**Exodus 16:17** And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.

**Exodus 16:18** 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.

**Exodus 16:19** And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.

**Exodus 16:20** 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.

**Exodus 16:21** And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

**Exodus 16:22** And it came to pass, *that* on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one *man*: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

**Exodus 16:23** And he said unto them, *This is that* which the LORD hath said, To morrow *is* the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake *that* which ye will bake *to day*, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.

**Exodus 16:24** And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.

**Exodus 16:25** And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day *is* a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field.

**Exodus 16:26** Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, *which is* the sabbath, in it there shall be none.

**Exodus 16:27** And it came to pass, *that* there went out *some* of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.

**Exodus 16:28** And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?

**Exodus 16:29** See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.

**Exodus 16:30** So the people rested on the seventh day.

**Exodus 16:31** And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it *was* like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it *was* like wafers *made* with honey.

**Exodus 16:32** And Moses said, *This is the thing which the LORD commandeth*, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt.

**Exodus 16:33** And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it



up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.

**Exodus 16:34** As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

**Exodus 16:35** And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

**A. Bread in the morning to the fill** - Laying on the ground in the morning and the amount is enough for everybody in the camp to get an omer each. Even if there were only one million Israelites that would be around 6,000,000 pints (or 4,500,000 pounds) that was *harvested daily*.

**B. Flesh in the evening the quail** - Can you imagine the land area that about 2 million people would cover? (The quail (in flight) "covered" the camp) - A Miracle in itself

**C. God's supply is sufficient** - They were only to gather according to their eating. Those that gathered more didn't wind up with an abundance left over and those that gathered little still had plenty.

**D. Limit of provision** - Israel was to gather for the day in which they would be eating. The provision was fresh each and every morning, whatever was kept became corrupted, and that left on the ground melted away.

**E. Intro to idea of the upcoming Sabbath provision** - There was one exception to the daily harvesting. They were to gather an extra day's provision on Friday. Unlike other days of the week this did not breed worms or stink! No wonder the Sabbaths are said to be a *sign* between Jehovah and the nation of Israel

**F. Preserved in the Testimony** - Now all week the manna would corrupt from one day to the next, but not when placed in the golden pot (Hebrews 9:4) and placed in the Ark of the Covenant as a testimony to God's miraculous provision.

**G. How long did this miracle last?** - Repeated every morning, 6 days a week for 40 years.

### **Without Faith it is Impossible to Please God - Hebrews 11:6**

**Hebrews 3:1** Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

**Hebrews 3:2** Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses *was faithful* in all his house.

**Hebrews 3:3** For this *man* was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house.

**Hebrews 3:4** For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God.

**Hebrews 3:5** And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;

**Hebrews 3:6** But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

**Hebrews 3:7** Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

**Hebrews 3:8** Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

**Hebrews 3:9** When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

**Hebrews 3:10** Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in *their* heart; and they have not known my ways.

**Hebrews 3:11** So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

**Hebrews 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

**Hebrews 3:13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.