

# Manna From Heaven

By: Lenny Chapman

As the children of Israel took their journey from Elim and came into the wilderness of Sin, the “whole congregation” became very resentful toward God for what they perceived to be a lack of care for them, (Exodus 16:1-36). They had not been freed very long from their many years of slavery, when this ungrateful group developed this attitude toward God. The Heavenly Father showed a display of patience, longsuffering, and loving care as He provided them daily food from heaven. Instead of becoming angered toward the people, God chose to “prove” His love to them. ***“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.”*** (vs. 4).

The manna that God provided not only proved His love for the Israelites, but it also showed God’s ability to care for those walking according to His will. Because of this “daily” care, the Israelites were humbled before their Almighty God, and once again developed a dependency upon Him. This dependency should also apply to Christians today. Unfortunately, many tend to think so highly of themselves, that they do not properly humble themselves before the God of all creation. As part of the developing dependency upon God, the people had to also learn that even though God provided the “daily bread,” they had to put forth effort to secure it. They were instructed to go out each morning and collect a day’s amount. ***“So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted”*** (vs. 21). If they collected more than one day’s quantity (except the sixth day as they were to collect enough for the Sabbath also), the manna would spoil and be wasted.

It is sometimes hard to grasp the lesson that God provides **all that we need**. Many have such little confidence in God when it comes to His actual care for them. Sure, with their mouth they

say they trust God, but in their actions, they work more than necessary in an attempt to gain material things in abundance (much more than one really needs), including food. Living in the richest country as we do, it has become the American way not to feel bad as we waste so much of our food and resources. God’s power, love, compassion, and care is as evident now as it was back when He provided the Israelites manna each day until they came unto the borders of Canaan. ***“And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.”*** (vs. 35).

God’s gift of manna kept the Israelites alive for so many years in the wilderness, yet the ultimate “Manna from Heaven” that would give eternal life, was yet to come! As part of God’s plan, His beloved Son was delivered to the world to save all mankind and to allow those walking according the Law eternal life. John records for us the teaching of Jesus as He spoke of Himself as the “Bread of Life.” ***“Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Then they said to Him, “Lord, give us this bread always.” And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ... It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and***

***learned from the Father comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die.”*** (John 6:32-51).

God continues to care for His children both physically and spiritually. Let us trust in His care. How great Thou art!