

Exodus Chapter 16 Commentary

Ex 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. 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."

How easily, Satan can take a little leanness and make the past look so good. It has only been forty-five days since Israel came out of Egypt and now, they are desirous to go back. How quickly they have forgotten that they were slaves in Egypt. How quickly they have forgotten their mourning in Egypt, and how they cried to God for deliverance from their heavy burdens there.

A lesson for us: Satan is an expert at getting the flesh to covet that which it does not possess at present. This is how he deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, where Adam disobeyed God and brought us all under the sentence of death for sin. There Adam enslaved us all to be servant to Satan, in the flesh nature, which nature we will not lose until we die naturally.

Do you see that they blame Moses and Aaron for their present condition? Again, we go to the Garden of Eden and see the same fleshly principle at work. Adam and Eve put the blame for their disobedience on someone else. This is a picture of our own fleshly nature if we are not grounded in Christ and the word of God. Mankind is always blaming others for their present plight, or as being the cause of their disobedience to God. It is the sinful flesh nature at work.

How quickly they have forgotten: God was not with them in the land of Egypt. They were laboring under the Egyptian bondage because of former sins, which left them without God to keep and protect them. It was only by God's abundant mercy, through God's covenant promise to their forefathers, that God heard their prayers and delivered them from their bondage in Egypt, seen in: ***Ge 15:13-14; 13 "And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; 14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance."*** This has happened, as prophesied, and promised by God.

Notice, that they desire to have died in their former estate, rather than being under the stewardship of God, on a journey to the land of promise. How often we see this principle, of the covetousness nature of man today. Many people choose to remain in the land of eternal death, rather than endure a little while for the promise of an eternal abode with Christ. They refuse to make a public confession that Jesus is the Christ. They will not join the organized church established by Jesus Christ, our land of promise here in time, which is the church of salvation by the grace of God, because of the greatness of their love for the things of the flesh.

Also, a warning to those who do join the church. It is no picnic that you are going on. You will be faced with tribulations in life. Satan will tempt you to turn back and give up your place in the earthly land of promise. To overcome satanic temptations; we must remember the eternal promise, of the place Jesus has gone to prepare for all of God's chosen people. Keeping our eye on the prize as seen in: ***Php 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."***

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."

God tells Moses: I will provide bread for all of Israel. I will give it, and they are to gather a certain rate each day. God is going to use this standard of gathering to test Israel for faithfulness to God's commandments. God also tells them; on the sixth day; gather and prepare twice as much, since there will be no bread given on the seventh day.

This testing of God is to prove who will be faithful and who will yield to satanic covetousness temptation. We can apply this principle in our own lives. Do you remember, when Jesus was teaching his disciples to pray in a godly manner, not like the hypocritical Pharisees? Seen in: ***Mt 6:9-13; 9 ¶ "After this manner therefore pray***

ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen." Do you see the comparison? Just as God promised to give Israel daily bread: we are commanded to ask for daily bread. The trouble with our flesh nature is the same as Israel's. We often want to gather more than enough for one day. When our gathering becomes our obsession, we have turned to idolatry and are subject to the judicial wrath of God, and our walks as a Christian are a nauseous stench.

We should examine our own hearts and minds as we go to church: Why are we going? Is it for our glory or God's glory? Are we going with hearts and minds prepared to worship God in Spirit and Truth? As we look at the world today; we see that there are many who do not gather manna at all. They never go to church where the gospel of Jesus Christ, our bread of life, is preached. Some come to church not to gather daily bread, but to fill their earthly desire, of appearing to be a good Christian, and to prove their worth by fleshly works. Praise God! For those who come to church with a desire to worship God in Spirit and Truth.

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."

Moses and Aaron tell Israel: God will give you flesh in the evening and bread in the morning, and you shall be witness of the glory of the Lord. They rebuke Israel for murmuring against them, reminding them: we are only doing God's bidding, and your murmuring against us is murmuring against God.

How often? do Christian brethren complain and murmur against one another, forgetting that they are actually murmuring against God. What do you mean? God testifies of this in scripture in: **Mt 25:40 "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."** Oh God, help us to be faithful to thee in all our walks in life, that your light of truth may shine forth to the world brightly.

How often do people complain of the ministers that God provides them? The devil does always supply the temptations to get God's people to complain against the preachers: He preaches to long; his sermons step on my toes; our preacher is not gifted like some other preacher they like more, and on and on. Those, who are complaining, are those who are not content with the provision of God, and their heart is not right with God.

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."

Moses and Aaron call all of Israel together to see the glory of God, who appears in a cloud before them. God directs his speech to Moses, in the hearing of all Israel, and tells them they shall eat flesh in the evening and in the morning, they will be filled with bread.

This is a warning to us when we begin to murmur and complain against God; God will send a message through his minister to speak to us, even though the minister may not even know what the message of rebuke is for. I have experienced the rebuke of God in this way from both sides, as a recipient of the message, and as a giver of the message. Recognize, and know, when these kinds of messages are sent from God, the cloud of the Spirit of God is on the scene, and God is not pleased. These kinds of messages are to bring us to remembrance; God is our present, and our eternal God, before whom we should fear and tremble, not murmur or complain.

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."

God performs, as he said he would, and they have quail in the evening and bread in the morning. I believe we can safely say that the quails were a one-time thing, not every day. Why? We do not hear of quails again until God in his wrath sends them, seen in: ***Nu 11:31-32; 31 ¶ "And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. 32 And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp."*** Remember, that in this place in scripture, God slew many while the flesh was yet hot between their teeth. His punishment because they said they loathed the bread from heaven, which had sustained them in good health all the years before.

A reminder to us; of what we are told about being content with what we have, seen in: ***1Ti 6:8; 6 ¶ "But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 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. 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."***

The manna is a new thing on earth and is sent to Israel only, and it shall sustain them, throughout their journey to the land of promise. The gospel of Jesus Christ, salvation by the grace of God, is sent by God, a new thing established on earth when Jesus came the first time and fulfilled the sacrificial law. It is reserved for God's people. The rest of the world, even if they hear it, rejects it as the bread of life.

Notice, it is to be daily bread for Israel. Likewise, God's word of truth is to be daily bread for us. God has sent the written word down from heaven to be food for God's people. We see that God's people receive and desire it, while the world of the unsaved reject it as nothing.

Some will say: but we only meet to worship one day a week; how then can this manna be representative of our daily bread? The gospel message is to be preached every day, by every child of God. We do this by living lives that bring and proclaim glory to God. We are to be reading and sharing God's word of truth with our families at home every day. We are to share God's truth to all at every opportunity God provides. Do you think that God's mercy and grace are only present when God's people meet to worship? Absolutely not. That is why we are given eternal life in the new birth, and why we are always inhabited with the Holy Spirit presence. If we ignore the presence of Christ in us, we are rejecting God.

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."

Most dictionaries say an omer is equal to around 1/2 to 3/4 gallon. This would be about the size of a regular loaf of bread that we might purchase today. The point being: each man was to gather for himself the prescribed amount for his need, and equally, the prescribed amount for each member of his family. Demonstrating that God knows the need of every child of God and has provided, and will provide, each individual need.

Consider this parable of Jesus: ***Lu 12:42; 37 "Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. 38 And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 39 And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. 40 Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not. 41 ¶ Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all? 42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in***

due season? 43 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing." Surely this parable reminds us of how faithful each man as, parent and head of the house, should be sure that all those who are under his headship are supplied with their daily bread. This does not only mean natural food, but especially, spiritual food. We, as Fathers, are to be sure we gather from God's word of truth and share with our wives, and children, their daily word of God for sustenance in living Christian lives.

Some will immediately complain and say: our children are not professing Christians yet, so why provide for them? Filling our children with manna, from heaven daily, will teach them to trust fully in God, and God, in his own time, will do the work of the new birth and give eternal life to them. After all, God did not say to feed those who believed in him, but to provide for every member under that man's care. We should remember what we are told in the New Testament in: **1Ti 5:8 "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."** God does not tell us to just teach our children that are born-again. He says to teach them all, and I will take care of eternal salvation and the new birth.

"And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack;" Did you notice how God made provision? If a person gathered much, which was more than he needed, God reduced it to be the right amount. If a person gathered little, God expanded it to the right amount. Now, apply this to your Christian life. God has promised to provide our needs, not our wants. However, God will never give us less or more than we need. If we begin to gather to much of this world, in the lust of our flesh, God will reduce our gain to the right amount to make us remember that he is God, and we are to serve him faithfully. If we piddle around and do not gather enough in this world for our needs, God will remind us to get busy and do the work prescribed. After all, God told mankind in the beginning when man fell in sin, **Ge 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground."** And he also told us in: **2Th 3:10 "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."** The thought behind these comments is that God will provide our spiritual needs on the exact amount of the measure of grace to each believer. He may give us abundance or little in the way of natural sustenance, but our spiritual needs will be perfect for the present time and situation in life.

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."

We see; covetousness still prevailed in some lives. But look what a stench of decay it was the next morning. A great warning: if we covet and do not use what God has given us for this day, and we try to put off using some of today's blessing for tomorrow, we will bring decay into the camp, and the stench will be bad to all. What is worse, than the stench of putrid decay, is God's wrath and judicial judgment.

Do you see how God expects us to recognize his daily provisions in our lives, and how he expects us to use them faithfully, not trying to store them up for tomorrow? When God gives us a blessing for today, it is not to be used tomorrow, but today. How often do we lose the blessing of God, by putting off doing the things he prompts us to do through the leading of the Holy Spirit? May God help us to be faithful to his Holy Spirit leading.

21 And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted. 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. 23 And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. 24 And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. 25 And Moses said, Eat that today; for today is a sabbath unto the LORD: today ye shall not find it in the field. 26 Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none."

God is here making provision for his chosen nation of people to spend one day resting, and remembering all that God has done for them. He tells them to not go out to gather on the sabbath day. God's intent was to take this one day and let the physical body restore itself from the toils of life. God intended that they spend this day

of rest in worship of their God. This included the whole family. Mothers and wives were not to spend the day cooking and fixing for their families, but all were to rest and praise God.

What lesson can we draw from this to apply to our own lives? We should take at least one day per week and spend it resting the physical body. However, as we rest the physical body, we should also spend this time worshipping and praising God for the multitude of blessing in our lives. We believe that the observance of the actual sabbath of the Old Testament was fulfilled, and that Christ instituted a new day of worship, which we observe as Sunday, the first day of the week. This was the day that Christ arose from the dead. This was the day when Jesus's disciples worshipped, and that pattern has continued until today.

Many people, today, do not observe any day of the week, for rest and worship of God, but spend all their time either working or playing. Most of the world does not even take time to go to a worship service, and if they do go, immediately afterwards they continue their working and playing. Is it any wonder that we live in a world that seems to have forgotten there is a God in heaven, who has made provision for us to have all the blessing we enjoy in life, when they never take time to think, or hear about God.

There is a prophetic picture here for us. Think about the amount that was laid up for the sabbath, that did not spoil or breed worms. Think about the finished work of Jesus Christ and see, Jesus, through his finished work, laid up enough saving grace, to provide for God's chosen people, all the days of the age of salvation by the grace of God. Prophetically, Christ has laid up in store enough, for the eternal sabbath of rest, in the place he has gone to prepare for us.

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. 28 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? 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. 30 So the people rested on the seventh day."

You notice that God was angry with those who refused to believe and obey. We do not believe that God has changed his position on taking one day a week to rest and worship, not work and play.

Do remember what we were told in: *Ex 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. 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."* God did this to prove whether Israel would be obedient to his word or not. Now apply this principle to your own life as a Christian. When we are born again, we are given the needed provision for our Christian walk day by day. Our decisions, to believe the word and work of God, or whether we will follow our own fleshly lust, prove to God our faithfulness or unfaithfulness. If we prove unfaithful, God will be angered with us, and God will admonish us, for our unfaithfulness and disobedience to his Word. This is a great warning to trust fully in God's Word of Truth, Jesus Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit power of Christ in us.

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. 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. 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. 34 As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. 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. 36 Now an omer is the tenth part of an ephah."

God gave Israel a daily provision of manna all the years they were in the wilderness until they reached the land of promise. God has given us a daily provision of the bread of life to sustain us until we reach the eternal land of promise. Some will say: God is not raining down manna from heaven for us to gather as he did for Israel. To which we reply: God is raining down his blessing upon this earth every day. Remember, God provided the manna, but Israel had to go out and gather it. So, it is for us today. God has provided us the written word of God,

the King James bible, from which we are to glean every day. God has provided this world he created which speaks of his greatness, and this world declares his glory, as seen in:

- ***Ps 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."***
- ***Ps 50:6 "And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah."***
- ***Ps 97:6 "The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory."***

Wherefore, even if we do not have bibles, we have creation all around us, which declares the glory of God, and demands our worship of his holy name.

God had Moses to save an omer of manna, as an emblem of remembrance of God providing bread on the wilderness journey. This is pictorial of what happens in the new birth. God places Christ in you, the hope of glory, with the promise of eternal life, and it is to be a memorial to us each day of our lives. We should always remember where our source of the bread of life is, and where we are going.

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for your provision in our lives here, which sustains us until the time, when you call us forth from this world to the place you have gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Amen!