

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

This morning, we are going to continue our study through the book of Exodus – we are going to be in Exodus 16 –

I love superheroes –

FYI - I prefer the DC Universe to the Marvel guys.

So, I came across a story of a little known super hero – his name was **Bruce Wayne** – no not the Bruce Wayne from Gotham City – not Batman

This was an article about the Bruce Wayne from **Tiffin, Ohio**.

You see, back in 2016, the restaurants chain, Chipotle, decided to open up a new franchise in his home town.

So Bruce Wayne, was very excited about that – after all, he really loved their burritos and eating their chips and queso – hey - just like me.

and now, they just happen to build one in his neck if the woods.

So he went one day and ordered his favorite burrito, and then he decided to go the next day and then the next day and then the next day.

By the end of 2017, Bruce Wayne broke the record of eating 425 consecutive days at Chipotle.

But, he was not done.

He continued to eat every day at Chipotle until it all came to an end on March 2018 – when he had tallied 500 consecutive days.

He even set up his own social media account where he documented his heroic accomplishment.

Think about it! that is eating Chipotle every day for almost 1.5 years.

As amazing as it sounds, Bruce Wayne's accomplishment pales in comparison to the Children of Israel – who we will be introduced to a new diet – a diet of manna – this will be a diet that they will eat every day for the next forty years.

As we will see in our text this morning, God is going to provide for them the instructions on how to gather it, when to gather, when to eat it and how often to eat it –

And the significance of these instructions for us – is that they are the same instructions for us regarding our own spiritual manna – our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Let's pray...

In the process of delivering the Children of Israel out of Egypt –

The Children of Israel were provided with example after example of His omnipotence.

And that was demonstrated through each of the ten plagues and it was demonstrated through the parting and the un-parting of the Red Sea.

These were all object lessons for the Children of Israel – God is all powerful.

But God is much more than omnipotent.

There are other attributes of God.

[Psa 103:7-8 NKJV] 7 He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel. 8 The LORD [is] merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

The Lord is going to provide another object lesson here in chapter 16 - so that the Children of Israel will learn some of these attributes.

[Exo 16:1-36 NKJV] 1 And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt.

It had been about a month since the Children of Israel had left Egypt.

The book of Numbers tells us that once they crossed the Red Sea, their journey took them along the shores of the Red Sea until they came to the Wilderness of Sin.

They have traveled about 300 miles and all the food and snacks that they brought over for the trip – they are now gone.

2 Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3 And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat [and] when we ate bread to the full! For you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

I asked you to make a note that the whole congregation of the Children of Israel complained – these were not a handful of them – all of them.

In Psalm 133 – David writes, Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

The Israelites were definitely united; but it certainly wasn't "good," and it certainly wasn't "pleasant."

You see, their unity was one that brought upon division.

Every single one of them had concluded in their mind that God had delivered them out of bondage to die in the wilderness.

No longer did they remember baking bricks under the blistering Egyptian sun – no longer did they remember being beaten by their taskmaster.

They had an inflated view of their previous conditions.

They were not coming home to overflowing pots of meats and all the fresh bread they could eat.

But they tried to convince themselves that they did in order to support their complaining.

The same thing occurs to the struggling believer – who sees the perilous road ahead and looks back at their life while they were still in bondage and begin to exaggerate how much better their life was before they got saved.

4 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.

I want you to notice that God does not respond to their complaining by raining fire and judgment upon the Children of Israel –

He says that He is going to rain down bread upon them.

He is going to pour out a blessing upon them.

This is going to be a twofold test.

1. Will the Children of Israel trust God to provide for their need?
2. Will the Children of Israel obey the word of God?

The last question is really based on the first.

God is going to give them an answer to their problem, but if they don't trust God, they're not going to do what God says.

5 "And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

I will expound on the significance of this later on in the study.

6 Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. 7 "And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what [are] we, that you complain against us?" 8 Also Moses said, "[This shall be seen] when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what [are] we? Your complaints [are] not against us but against the LORD."

Moses does something here that I believe is very important.

He doesn't take the complaining of the people personally.

He reminds them that their complaints are really directed at the Lord for putting in that situation.

Here is a question that we must ask ourselves -

Are we complainers?

When I don't like how people are treating me and I complain, is it possible that I'm really complaining against God?

Could it be that I don't trust that God is big enough to take care of this person who I don't like?

Here's the real principle: Complaining displays my lack of faith.

9 Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.' " 10 Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to 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 spoke to Moses, saying, 12 "I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I [am] the LORD your God.'

The glory of the Lord was made visible here in the provisions that He provided for the children of Israel.

" 13 So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the dew lay all around the camp. 14 And when the layer of dew lifted,

there, on the surface of the wilderness, was a small round substance, [as] fine as frost on the ground. 15 So when the children of Israel saw [it], they said to one another, **"What is it?"** For they did not know what it [was]. And Moses said to them, **"This [is] the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.**

Number 11 tells us that purpose of the dew was to keep the manna from being defiled by the ground.

The name manna comes from the phrase that was spoken by the Children of Israel as they came up upon God's provisions - "What is it?"

And I believe that it is so fitting because many times as God's provisions come into our lives – we may not recognize them because we are too busy thinking that the provisions were provided by something that we did.

16 "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Let every man gather it according to each one's need, one omer for each person, [according to the] number of persons; let every man take for [those] who [are] in his tent.' " 17 Then the children of Israel did so and gathered, some more, some less. 18 So when they measured [it] by omers, he who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack. Every man had gathered according to each one's need.

Here we see a miracle within the miracle.

Whatever quantity each person had gathered, when he measured it in his tent, he found that he had just as many omers as he needed for the consumption of his family.

For those of us wondering how much an omer is – it is about 2-3 liters.

To give you an idea of how much they collected – a bag of flour that one buys at the store is about two liters –

So that means that God was providing the equivalent of over two million bags of flour for the people every day.

I want you to notice that the people had to gather God's provision.

God provided it – but He was not responsible for gathering it – they had to go out of their tents and gather it.

19 And Moses said, "Let no one leave any of it till morning." 20 Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.

The Children of Israel could not just go out of their tents and stockpile manna for the rest of the week.

Every day they had to venture out.

But some of them disobeyed and immediately the manna turned bad.

God will never allow you to keep a spiritual blessing completely for yourself. It must be given back to Him so that He can make it a blessing to others.

Sometimes people take these verses out of context and they will imply that God is teaching us that somehow saving for the future is wrong.

The lesson here is different.

God is trying to teach them that He will provide for their needs every day.

[Mat 6:11 NKJV] 11 Give us this day our daily bread.

21 So they gathered it every morning, every man according to his need. And when the sun became hot, it melted.

They needed to gather it in the morning.

If they slept in and waited until noon to go to the wilderness store, the stuff would be gone.

So, if you were not a morning person – you missed out.

I think the same can be said about our own devotional time with the Lord.

We need our morning devotionals, we need to spend time in the Word every day and fellowship with Him –

I have found that in my own life, whenever I put it off toward later in the day – things will pop up and my devotional time will suffer.

I see a few principles here that apply to our spiritual nourishment.

1. God promises enough for every day.

God promised enough for every person. It was readily available.

2. You have to go out and get it

If you want to eat, you need to go get it.

You and I need to take the time to read our Bible and spend time with God every day.

3. Do it when it's there.

For some of us it means getting up a little earlier every day to spend time with God before the day gets away.

For others there is a time of day that God provides you – maybe at break time at work, maybe after the kids are asleep – but you need to take the time and use it before the manna melts.

If you don't take advantage of the time it's there, it will "melt" and be gone.

4. Leftovers stink.

Don't try living off of yesterday's manna.

Some of us try to live off of what we get from the sermon that we heard on Sunday morning.

We feel that it will sustain us for the entire week.

We don't open up our bibles throughout the week –

By the time Saturday comes around – guess what – it gets pretty stinky.

We need a fresh Word every day.

22 And so it was, on the sixth day, [that] they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. And all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

On the 6th day, they were supposed to gather twice as much of the manna –

So God would provide double for them.

Why did they have to collect double?

Because on the Seventh Day God would not provide any manna.

23 Then he said to them, "This [is what] the LORD has said: 'Tomorrow [is] a Sabbath rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake [today], and boil what you will boil; and lay up for yourselves all that remains, to be kept until

morning.' " **24 So they laid it up till morning, as Moses commanded; and it did not stink, nor were there any worms in it.**

Verse twenty-three is the first occurrence of the word Sabbath in the Bible.

This was all brand new to them.

We find no mention of any of the patriarchs keeping the Sabbath before this.

God was now going to give them a day off.

This was their orientation to the Sabbath.

This was a lesson so that they would learn to trust the Lord.

And we see that this is one of the areas where they disobey when they enter into the Promised Land.

You might remember that when we studied the book of Daniel – we saw that the reason they were in captivity for 70 years was because they had robbed God of the Passover Year for 490 years – as they failed to place their trust in Him.

25 Then Moses said, "Eat that today, for today [is] a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. 26 "Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none." 27 Now it happened [that some] of the people went out on the seventh day to gather, but they found none.

Despite the Lord giving instructions to the people that there will be no manna given on the Sabbath – some of the people still went out to see if they could gather some – and just like the Lord said – they found none.

There are individuals today who do the same thing – they look for fulfillment in places where there is none.

In people, in places, in possessions – even though true fulfillment – a true abundant life is found in Christ alone.

28 And the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My laws? 29 "See! For the LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore He gives you on the sixth day bread for two days. Let every man remain in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." 30 So the people rested on the seventh day. 31 And the house of Israel called its name Manna. And it [was] like white coriander seed, and the taste of it [was] like wafers [made] with honey.

Turn with me to the gospel of John –

We don't have time to read all of chapter six –

So we will pick it up in verse 31 -

Because what I want to show you is that the manna that is spoken of here in Exodus 16 is a shadow or a type of Jesus Christ.

[Jhn 6:31-35 NKJV] 31 "Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.' " 32 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. 33 "For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." 35 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.

Both Jesus Christ and the manna descended from heaven, as a gift from God the Father.

I love the fact that the manna fell exactly where they were.

They did not have to climb a mountain or cross a raging river in order to access it.

It was readily available to them.

In the same way that Jesus Christ is available to anyone that calls upon Him.

32 Then Moses said, "This [is] the thing which the LORD has commanded: 'Fill an omer with it, to be kept for your generations, that they may see the bread with which I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.' "

33 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take a pot and put an omer of manna in it, 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.

The "testimony" is a reference to the Ark of the Covenant where they placed a jar with manna.

God was going to give them in instructions on how to build it along with the tabernacle later on.

This was going to be a reminder for the generation that would come afterwards – regarding God's provisions for them in the wilderness.

35 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. 36 Now an omer [is] one-tenth of an ephah.

The manna stopped raining down on the Children of Israel when Joshua led them across the Jordan River into the Promised Land.

God's provisions did not end – they simply changed as they were no longer in the wilderness – they were in the Land flowing with milk and honey.

Just as God provided manna to the Israelites to save them from starvation, He has provided Jesus Christ for our salvation.

- The manna temporarily saved the Israelites from physical death.

The spiritual manna permanently saves us from eternal death.

Jesus said, “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die” (John 6:49-50).

Church, our manna will sustain us for eternity.

May we partake of our Manna every day.

Amen!

Let's pray...

