



“Open Church – Open Bible”

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Sunday Church School

September 6, 2020

“God Provides Manna and Quail”— Exodus 16:1-15

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“Exodus 16:1-15”

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.

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."

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.

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“Exodus 16:1-15”

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."

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."

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.

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“Exodus 16:1-15”

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.' "

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.

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How many times have we chosen to only see the problem rather than the **God Who is greater than the problem?**

This week’s lesson centers on the Exodus sojourn of the people of Israel out of Egyptian enslavement on their way to the Land of Promise.

It is easy to be critical of the Israelites for their constant complaining, but we should consider that they are a mirror to us.

It is helpful to know that after calling the exiled fugitive murderer Moses out of Midian, God gave him the assignment of extricating His people from bondage.

Moses had pleaded his inadequacy to carry out the assignment:

- a. No Ability (Exd. 3:11) c. No Authority (Exd. 4:1) e. No Inclination (Exd. 4:13)
- b. No Message (Exd. 3:13) d. No Eloquence (Exd. 4:10)

God countered Moses objections with promise of **presence** (3:12), His **omnipotence** (4:2-9), **Divine enablement** (4:11-12), **Divine Direction and Instruction** (4:14-16)

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God made seven demands of Pharaoh (5:1; 7:16; 8:1; 8:20; 9:13; 10:3) all centered around the stranglehold that his dominance had placed on His people --"Let My people go, that they may serve (‘ābad – worship) Me.

[NOTE: there is no time, nor place, where, when, and how long]

Pharaoh’s wicked nature prompted him to impose an even heavier burden upon God’s people by requiring the same work output with reduced resources.

❑ No doubt to restrict the desire and opportunity for them to worship Yahweh.

Over several months, the Israelites witnessed ten miraculous plagues— each to defy gods of Egypt while heightening the superiority of Yahweh.

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| 1. Blood in Nile defying Hapi (7:14-25) | 6. Boils defying Ptah/Apis (9:1-12) |
| 2. Frogs in defiance of Hekt (8:1-15) | 7. Hail defying all gods (9:13-35) |
| 3. Gnats defying Isis & Hathor (8:16-32) | 8. Locusts defying all gods (10:1-20) |
| 4. Flies defying Isis & Hathor (8:16-32) | 9. Darkness defying all gods (10:21-29) |
| 5. Murrain defying Ptah/Apis (9:1-12) | 10. Death of 1 st born vs Pharaoh (11:1-10) |

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It was through these divine judgments that God brought about the release of the captive Israelites.

Now after **evidencing** the mighty power of God and enunciating the name of God and **experiencing** the provision of God, we come back to our original query:

How many times have we chosen to only see the problem rather than the God Who is greater than the problem?

Even their final deliverance which occurred at the Red Sea was a test of their faith and not their sight (II Cor. 5:7)— for they were looking at the mountains, the desert, Pharaoh’s army and a body of water in front of them

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. THE PEOPLE’S COMPLAINT —Exd. 16:2-3**
- II. THE LORD’S RESPONSE —Exd. 16:4-8**
- III. THE LORD’S PROVISION —Exd. 16:9-15**

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“Exodus 16:1-15”

I. THE PEOPLE’S COMPLAINT —Exd. 16:2-3

- **Israel** they took their journey from ‘Ēlim (ay-leem – palm trees)—where they had remained several days came unto the wilderness of Zin (Sin –seen= thorn; dryness) which is identified with the Wilderness of Kadesh (Num. 33:36)
- It appears from Num. 32:1–42, that **several stations are omitted** in this historical notice of the journey.
- Despite past expressions of care and covering, the whole congregation began to **complain against leadership** (Moses and Aaron)
- At this juncture in their flight, they are just more than thirty days and their store of corn or other provisions was nearly exhausted; and with no prospect of procuring any replacement, they would have to resort wild olives and honey (Deut. 32:13)
- Travelers in this region were known always to travel with as much as **forty days of provision** for both men and beasts.
- They had cattle but couldn’t slaughter them – for slaughtering the cattle would detract from the **long-term benefit** of having milk and cheese

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- After the water crisis in Exd 15:22–27 and before another water crisis in 17:1–7, the Israelites now face a **food crisis**.
- And Yahweh provides for them again, this time with manna and quail.
- Despite this, however, the Israelites continue to have problems **trusting** in Yahweh’s ability to provide (v. 20, 27).
- Despite proof God controls the forces of nature, the Israelites complain; thereby demonstrating a lack of faith in divine power and providence (see 15:23–25).
- In Exd. 16:3 the people would prefer death by natural causes (by the hand of Yahweh) or old age in Egypt—even enslavement—over their current hunger.
- They said they never wanted for food in Egypt “sat by the flesh pots” (V. 3)

II. **THE LORD’S RESPONSE** —Exd. 16:4-8

- What poor memories Israel had! They had been away from the bondage of Egypt just a little over a month and had already forgotten God’s many mercies.
- They murmured against Moses and against God (see 15:22–27), and interestingly, **God responded without any indication** that Moses or anyone else spoke to Him.

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“Exodus 16:1-15”

- Verse 4 could well have read, “I will rain fire and brimstone upon those ungrateful sinners!”
- But, no, God proved His love toward them by raining bread from heaven upon them (See V 14:21-- **compare Psl. 78:24, 25; 105:40; Neh. 9:15**)
- Someone has calculated that to supply an omer (5.2 pints) of manna each for two million people daily would have required four freight trains of sixty cars each. **How kind of God!**
- The phrasing of v 6 is virtually identical to that associated with the Passover, which commemorated deliverance at the death of the firstborn of Egypt and the release from captivity (Exd 13:9, 16)
- Moses and Aaron rebuked the people for their grumbling against them (v. 7) and the Lord (v. 8) and reassured them of His provision for their need, which would cause the community to know that He is the Lord their God (v. 12).
- V 8, 12-13 says the bread came early in the morning (V. 8, 12–13)—actually, it came during the night (Num. 11:9)—and melted in the heat of the day (Ex. 16:21).

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III. THE LORD’S PROVISION —Exd. 16:9-15

- Each day the people were to gather only enough bread for that day. This meant **they would have to trust the Lord** to bring the food each morning
- Notice God would give the bread freely, but they had to **retrieve it from the ground** according to the Lord’s instruction (V. 16-26)
- **God asked Moses a question** back in V 4 “Will they go according to my law or not? – I am going to prove (nāsâ– test; try) them whether they will
- God would not only satisfy their hunger, He would **test their character** (v 15)
- The test foreshadows Sabbath regulations that will be outlined in the commandments given at Sinai (Exd. 20) and ensuing case laws (Deut. 8:2–3).
- The phrasing in Exd. 16:7 “*in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord*” was very similar to **what God said when they were leaving Egypt** (Exd. 12:10) the glory of the Lord -- Kābôd Yehovah (Yahweh) – **the presence of God**
- This should have jolted the people to realize that they were **questioning the ability of the same God** who had brought about the plagues in Egypt.

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- Moses told the people the Lord had heard their murmurings (Num 14:27) and would give them this bread. The Lord would also answer their desire for meat that evening.
 - ❑ **Murmuring** (telûwnâh = complaining grumbling in the sense of obstinance)
 - ❑ The complaints are always “against” something or someone
 - ❑ Ultimately it was toward; God casting aspersion on His justice, goodness, and power in an act of open **rebellion, disbelief and disobedience**
- **Num 14:22-23** Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have **tempted me now these ten times**, and have not hearkened to my voice; ²³Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it.
- The Lord then instructed Moses to gather the people before Him. And they were able to witness some ocular demonstration of God’s presence
- It does appear that we are more like the Israelites than we care to admit—quick to complain to God rather than praise Him – and He remains faithful and gracious.



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“LESSONS FORM THE LESSON”



Exodus 16 should be read in connection with John 6, for the manna from heaven is a type of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

It also illustrates the written Word of God on which God’s pilgrim people feed from day to day (Matt. 4:4).

The Hebrew word manna means **“What is it?”** (v. 15), the statement of the Jews when they could not explain this new food that God had sent.

- 1 Tim. 3:16 “Great is the mystery of godliness,”
- Consider how the manna pictures Jesus Christ Who was “God manifest in flesh”



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“ADVANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE”



1. When the Israelites arrived at the Wilderness of Sin, what was the implication of their claim that it would have been better for them to die?
2. In light of previous examples of God’s provision and care, why would they issue a complaint against the Lord’s workers, Moses and Aaron?
3. What assurance would the people receive from God’s provision and in what way did the provision test the people?
4. How long did God’s provision continue and what is the significance of the name that they gave to it?

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