

Series: The Life of Moses

C. R. B. C. 7-30-17

“More Than Enough”

**Text:** Exodus 16:12-35; John 6:35

**Intro:** From the American who goes the store to buy his bread to the savage who cooks his daily ration of bread on a stone beside his fire, bread is consumed by people everywhere. By the same token, most people enjoy their bread. While some like meat and others don't, or some like greens and others don't, most people like bread. Bread is one of the few foods that can be tolerated by most digestive systems. Also, bread has a satisfying quality that few other food products have. The nation of Israel would become very familiar with this unusual provision of manna, or bread from heaven as it would serve as their primary source of sustenance for the next 40 years. “The manna story here in Chapter 16 is a rather long narrative account, but its length is appropriate when one considers that during the wilderness wanderings the Israelites saw the supernatural every day (the pillar of cloud) and also experienced the miraculous every day (manna as miraculous provision), with a double miracle every weekend. Forty years of daily miracles earned the manna account a rightfully large place in the story of the wilderness, and it therefore should not be surprising that God required that a sample of the manna be placed in the ark, as one of its three sacred contents.” Although the manna from Heaven was significant in sustaining the Nation of Israel, greater still is the typology involved in the manna itself, as it points to The Bread of Life, Jesus Christ.

*First, let us note that the Manna Was Promised*

### **I. The Manna Was Promised (Vs. 12)**

- a. Following the grumbling and complaining of the Israelites, God responds in Grace
- b. Filled with bread
- c. God was fully aware of their needs!! He was listening
- d. God's desire was for the children of Israel to know the He was the Lord their God
- e. The children of Israel needed to come to terms with Who it was that was leading them
- f. The Lord is in control. He always keeps His Word. There has never been a time where God had to apologize for a neglected commitment.
- g. God's Word is filled with countless promises!! Jesus, Himself, was promised
- h. **Isaiah 7:14**—Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- i. **Isaiah 9:6**—For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

j. **Jeremiah 23:5**—Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**k. Illustration:** Robert Robinson had been saved out of a tempestuous life of sin through George Whitfield's ministry in England. Shortly after that, at the age of twenty-three, Robinson wrote the hymn Come, Thou Fount.

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,

Streams of mercy, never ceasing,

Call for songs of loudest praise.

Sadly, Robinson wandered far from those streams and, like the Prodigal Son, journeyed into the distant country of carnality. Until one day—he was traveling by stagecoach and sitting beside a young woman engrossed in her book. She ran across a verse she thought was beautiful and asked him what he thought of it.

Prone to wander— Lord, I feel it—

Prone to leave the God I love.

Bursting into tears, Robinson said, "Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then." Although greatly surprised, she reassured him that the "streams of mercy" mentioned in his song still flowed. Mr. Robinson was deeply touched. Turning his "wandering heart" to the Lord, he was restored to full fellowship.

l. God help us to remember His promises as we wander through this life.

*Secondly, we note The Manna Was Provided*

## **II. The Manna Was Provided (Vs. 13-15)**

a. With the morning dew came the manna

b. Israelites did not know what it was—Manna (What Is It?)

c. It was small, yet sufficient

d. It was round—complete (**John 8:53-59**)

e. It was white—perfect, pure

f. It was sweet—**Psalm 34:8**—Taste and see that the Lord is good.")

g. It was satisfying and strengthening

h. It Came from Heaven—It was not imported from Egypt, or manufactured in the wilderness; it was given from Heaven, the gift of God's grace. Jesus Christ came down from Heaven (**John 6:33**) as the Father's gift to hungry sinners.

i. It came at night—The people gathered the manna early each morning, for the manna fell at night. This suggests the darkness of sin in this world when Jesus came. Jesus came to be the Light of the world (**John 8:12**)

j. It came on the dew—The dew kept the manna from being defiled by the earth. This is a type of the Holy Spirit (**Luke 1:34-35**)

k. It fell in the wilderness—This world is not paradise, yet Christ came to this world to bring men life, what Grace!!

l. It came to a rebellious people-- Someone has calculated that to supply six pints (an

- omer) of manna each for two million people daily would have required four freight trains of sixty cars each. How Generous God is to His people (Romans 5:6-8)
- m. It fell right where they were—(Romans 10:6-8)
- n. This all points to Jesus, The Bread of Life (John 6:35)

*Finally, we note The Manna was Preserved*

### **III. The Manna Was Preserved (Vs. 32-35)**

- a. God desired for Israel to remember this event
- b. Moses instructed Aaron to place an omer of the manna in a jar
- c. **Quote:** “How the memory of it was preserved. An omer of this manna was laid up in a golden pot, as we are told (Hebrews 9:4), and kept before the testimony, or the ark, when it was afterwards made, v. 32-34. The preservation of this manna from waste and corruption was a standing miracle, and therefore the more proper memorial of this miraculous food. “Posterity shall see the bread,” says God, “wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness,” see what sort of food it was, and how much each man’s daily proportion of it was, that it may appear they were neither kept to hard fare nor to short allowance, and then judge between God and Israel, whether they had any cause given them to murmur and find fault with their provisions, and whether they and their seed after them had not a great deal of reason gratefully to won God’s goodness to them. Note, Eaten bread must not be forgotten. God’s miracles and mercies are to be had in everlasting remembrance, for our encouragement to trust in him at all times.” Matthew Henry
- d. **Quote:** “How the mercy of it was continued as long as they had occasion for it. The manna never ceased till they came to the borders of Canaan, where there was bread enough and to spare, v. 35. See how constant the care of Providence is; seedtime and harvest fail not, while the earth remains. Israel was very provoking in the wilderness, yet the manna never failed them: thus still God causes his rain to fall on the just and unjust. The manna is called spiritual meat (1 Corinthians 10:3), because it was typical of spiritual blessings in heavenly things. Christ himself is the true manna, the bread of life, of which this was a figure, (John 6:49-51). The word of God is the manna by which our souls are nourished, (Matthew 4:4). The comforts of the Spirit are hidden manna, (Revelation 2:17). These come from heaven, as the manna did, and are the support and comfort of the divine life in the soul, while we are in the wilderness of this world. It is food for Israelites, for those only that follow the pillar of cloud and fire. It is to be gathered; Christ in the word is to be applied to the soul, and the means of grace are to be used. We must every one of us gather for ourselves, and gather in the morning of our opportunities, which if we let slip, it may be too late to gather. The manna they gathered must not be hoarded up, but eaten; those that have received Christ must by faith live upon him, and not receive his grace in vain. There was manna enough for all, enough for each, and none had too much; so in Christ there is a complete sufficiency, and no superfluity. But those that did eat manna hungered again, died at last, and with many of them God was not well-pleased; whereas those that feed on Christ by faith shall never hunger, and shall die no more, and with them God will be for ever well pleased. The Lord evermore give us this bread!” Matthew Henry