

What Is It?

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 30th, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life;
he who comes to Me will not hunger, and
he who believes in Me will never thirst.***

~John 6:35 (NASB)

1) An Appetite For Moaning & Groaning

- A) Not long after leaving Palm Springs (Elim), Israel entered into a wilderness area (Sin), somewhere between Elim and Sinai (Exodus 16:1).
- B) Instead of lacking water, like the Marah test (15:22ff), Israel now finds themselves lacking in food. Extraordinarily, the people grumble bitterly against Moses, longing to return to the slavery of Egypt because of its familiarity (16:2-3).


2) God’s Miraculous Provision (And Secret Test)

- A) God tells Moses He will provide “bread from Heaven” which will come like rain (???). But this provision will come with a testing of Israel, to see if they can follow God’s instructions (His “Torah” -- 16:4-5).
- B) The text pointedly indicates that Israel’s “grumbings” against Moses, God’s chosen leader of His people, were actually grumbings against God (16:6-8). Moses’ announcement of God’s goodness comes with a subtle warning to the people to trust God’s revealed character.

3) God Your Compassionate Provider

- A) Moses gathers Israel together and invites the people to “come close” because “God heard you...” (16:9). While Moses is delivering this foreboding news, God appears in a cloud and speaks to Moses (and Israel) about His miraculous provision for His people (16:10-13).

4) What Is That Stuff?

- A) Just as God said, when evening arrives quail cover the camp to provide meat for Israel. After eating their fill and getting a night of sleep, the people wake up the next morning and go outside to see if there really is bread raining down from heaven, but they only find dew on the ground (16:13).
- B) But when the dew evaporated, it leaves behind a thin, almost frost-like substance (16:14). The puzzled Israelites ask “What is it?” (Hebrew  – man). Moses tells them that this puzzling substance is bread (manna) from God, and it is EVERYWHERE for gathering in the desert (16:15-16).
- C) As God had commanded, the people were only supposed to gather what they needed (16:17). God provided enough bread for Israel every morning (for the next 40 years), a nation of over 3 million people!

5) The Test From God

- A) Moses reminds the people of what God has commanded them, “don’t leave anything for the morning” (16:19). But in true rebellious fashion, the people will not listen to Moses (God), and the omer’s of manna fill with maggots (16:20).
- B) God provides His people with “daily bread” each morning (16:21), but only enough for that day. In the same way Israel fed on manna, we are to be nourished by Jesus each day (John 6:35), as our daily bread (cf. Matthew 6:11; Luke 11:3).

