

MANNA AND QUAILS

Old Testament Lesson #39

After Israel crossed the Red Sea, they traveled in a southerly direction, roughly parallel to the Red Sea. After 30 days, they came to camp in the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Mount Sinai. The whole community began to grumble against Moses and Aaron. They complained because their food provisions were not what they wanted. Back in Egypt, they had plenty to eat. Now they blamed Moses for taking them into the desert to starve.

God told Moses that he was going to provide bread from heaven. In addition, Moses and Aaron told the people that in the evening, God would provide meat for them to eat.

That night, quails came and covered the camp so that the people were able to capture and eat them.

In the morning, a layer of dew covered the ground. When the dew was gone, there were "thin flakes like frost" on the ground. The people asked each other, "What is it?" Moses told them it was the bread the LORD had given them. Each person was to gather as much as he needed to eat each morning. Nothing was to be kept for the following day, but some people did not listen. Those who kept it found that by the next morning, it had spoiled. On the morning before the Sabbath, however, the people were to gather enough for two days. The bread did not spoil for the Sabbath. God provided daily all the bread that they needed. No bread appeared on the ground on the Sabbath.

The people called this bread "manna," which means, "What is it?" The bread was described as being "white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey."

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Throughout the 40 years in the wilderness, God provided bread for the Israelites. The provisioning continued until Israel entered the Promised Land under Joshua. When Israel could eat of the fruit of the Promised Land, God ceased to provide the Manna (see Joshua 5:12; compare with Exodus 16:35).
- Jesus described himself as the "true bread from heaven." He told the people of his day, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). See dialogue of John 6:25-71.

Manna and Quails

- I. After crossing the Red Sea, Israel came to a camp in the Desert of Sin.
 - A. They complained about the food.
 - B. They remembered that in Egypt they had plenty of meat.
 - C. Now they blamed Moses for taking them to the desert and for letting them starve.
- II. God heard their grumbling and spoke to Moses.
 - A. God told Moses that bread from heaven would be provided.
 - B. That evening, God would also send meat for the people.
- III. God sent quail and bread.
 - A. The quail came at night and covered the camp.
 - B. The bread, called manna, came in the morning, like frost on the ground.
 - C. Moses said to gather only as much manna as each person needed to eat.
 - D. The manna was not to be kept until the next morning.
 - E. Some people didn't listen to Moses, and their bread spoiled.
 - F. On the morning before the Sabbath, they were to gather two days worth of manna.
 - G. The people called the bread "manna," which means "What is it?"

ANSWER KEY:

safely, sea, thirty, wilderness, set, grumble, food, strain, plenty, eat, desert, starving, intervened, spoke, provide, heaven, evening, meat, people, do, gather, day, not, keep, spoiled, light, sent, one, dew, bread

manna

M

oses and the Israelites went _____ through the _____.
 Then for _____ days they traveled south – still _____ only.
 They _____ up camp and then began to _____ and complain –
 The lack of _____ for them to eat was causing quite a _____.
 They said that back in Egypt, they had _____ there to _____ –
 But now Moses had them in the _____, _____ on their feet!
 And so God _____ and _____ to Moses then.
 He told him that He would _____ them bread from _____.
 God also said that in the _____, _____ would be there, too
 Then Moses and Aaron told the _____ what God said to _____.
 They were to _____ only what they needed for the _____.
 They were _____ to _____ it overnight, they heard Moses and Aaron say.
 They found that it was _____ as they woke at morning's _____.
 God _____ quail to the camp _____ evening as He said,
 And each morning with the _____, He sent them daily _____.


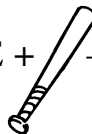
Fit these words into the poem above.

spoiled	meat	do	one	plenty	grumble
evening	sea	dew	desert	sent	people
set	heaven	spoke	eat	bread	intervened
starving	provide	food	keep	light	wilderness
safely	thirty	day	not	gather	strain



Add or subtract words and letters.

What was the “bread from heaven” called?

M +  - HD + 1 - OE +  - BT =

Name _____

God provided food for the people as they traveled together.

Count how many:



3 or 4?



4 or 5?



Name _____