

“And the Children of Israel No Longer Had Manna”

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. Joshua 5:11-12 - I first thought this was a sad passage, but then...
- B. God's promises
 - 1. For forty years the children of Israel have been waiting for the inheritance God promised to give to Abraham and his descendants
 - 2. Abraham - Gen. 13:14-17
 - 3. Isaac - Gen. 26:3
 - 4. Jacob - Gen. 28:13-14
 - 5. Joseph - Gen. 50:24
 - 6. Moses - Ex. 6:6-8
 - 7. Israel is at the border of fulfillment of the promises
 - a. They are in for a number of changes:
 - b. Battles, losses, miracles, homes & fields they didn't build or plant
 - c. A change they may not have thought about was end of manna

I. WHAT THE MANNA PROVIDED

- A. God's grace to His people - Ex. 16:1-5, 14-35
 - 1. It was small - Ex. 16:14 - God does not need the large and impressive
 - 2. It was round - Ex. 16:14 - God uses natural and logical forms
 - 3. It was white - Ex. 16:31 - God used symbols familiar and comfortable to His creation; white represents purity and health
 - 4. It came at night - Ex. 16:13-14 - God did not need man to observe His activity in order for it to occur
 - 5. It was misunderstood by those who found it - Ex. 16:15 - They called it "Manna," which means, "What is it?" God doesn't need to explain everything to men in order for Him to act in their wellbeing
 - 6. It was sufficient for every person's need - Ex. 16:17-18
 - a. For 40 years the Manna was sufficient for the nutritive needs of young and old, rich and poor, man and woman, leader and follower.
 - b. Reminiscent of the gospel, isn't it?
 - 7. It was sweet to the taste - Ex. 16:31 - "wafers made with honey"
 - a. "O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in him," Psalm 34:8.
 - 8. It was to be passed on to others - Ex. 16:32 - Characteristic of all of God's blessings
 - 9. It was gathered by bowing down - Ex. 16:14-15 - God expects us to humbly share in the work or in receiving His bounty
 - a. For nearly 13,000 days the people of Israel picked up the Manna, cooked it, and then ate it.
 - b. The people tried various ways to make the Manna more appetizing - Num. 11:8

10. It supplied them with hope. When they ate today's meal, there was the promise that there would be more food tomorrow. They could lie down at night with the assurance that God had their needs on His heart.

II. WHAT THE MANNA PROMISED

- A. The manna ceased the day after the children of Israel had eaten of the fruit of Canaan. Every day, when the people of Israel picked up and ate the Manna, it said, "There's a better day coming. You are headed to a land flowing with milk and honey. The Manna said, "Things will be better down the road."
 1. The Christians' feast with promise - 1Cor. 11:24-26; Phil. 3:8-11