

Hidden Manna From Heaven



by B. R. Hicks



Hidden Manna from Heaven

B. R. Hicks

Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Hidden Manna from Heaven](#)

[I. The Manna Appeared in the Wilderness.](#)

[II. The Nature of the Manna Was Manifested in Seven Ways.](#)

[III. Israel's Reception of the Manna Was Negative.](#)

[IV. God Gave Four Commands about Gathering the Manna.](#)

Introduction

God has secret, hidden Truths in His Word which He quickens and makes alive and real to the believer's heart as he walks close to Jesus Christ and learns to know his Saviour in a deeper, more personal, intimate way.

For instance, God promised to give *hidden Manna* to the overcomers in the Church of Pergamos. To what was God referring when He made this unusual Promise? By studying God's Word, we learn that hidden Manna pertains to secret, hidden Truths which man cannot discover through his own human senses. Man can know God's hidden Manna only as God reveals the secret Truths of His Word through the anointing of His Spirit.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna**, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it (Revelation 2:17).

The Bible is its own best commentary. Whenever God has said something in a Scripture, if it is not explained in that particular Scripture, we can be sure that He has explained it somewhere else in His Word. For example, the significance of the hidden Manna, promised to the overcomers in the Church of Pergamos, is revealed in type and shadow form in the Book of Exodus.

The Manna that God gave to the children of Israel when they were in the wilderness was a picture of the Flesh of Jesus Christ. During His Life on Earth, Jesus Christ plainly said that He was the Living Bread that had come down from Heaven (John:6:41-51). Only Jesus Christ Himself, Who is the True Bread, can totally satisfy man's hungering soul.

God fed His people, Israel, with Manna which literally rained down from Heaven. Today, God's people are fed by His Word, which also came down from Heaven, spiritually, through men who were inspired by the Holy Ghost to write the Truth, which feeds (as did the Manna) the hungry hearts and souls of those who desire to *grow* in Spiritual Stature.

According to the Bible, the Truth comes to the believer in many forms: as Milk, Bread, Corn, Nuts, Wine, and Meat, for example. At different stages of the believer's growth, he needs different kinds of food to increase his stature and to satisfy his heart and soul, both naturally and spiritually. It is when he, at last, has grown to the top or Head-realm of Christ's Stature that the believer finds *hidden Manna* to satisfy his spiritual hunger.

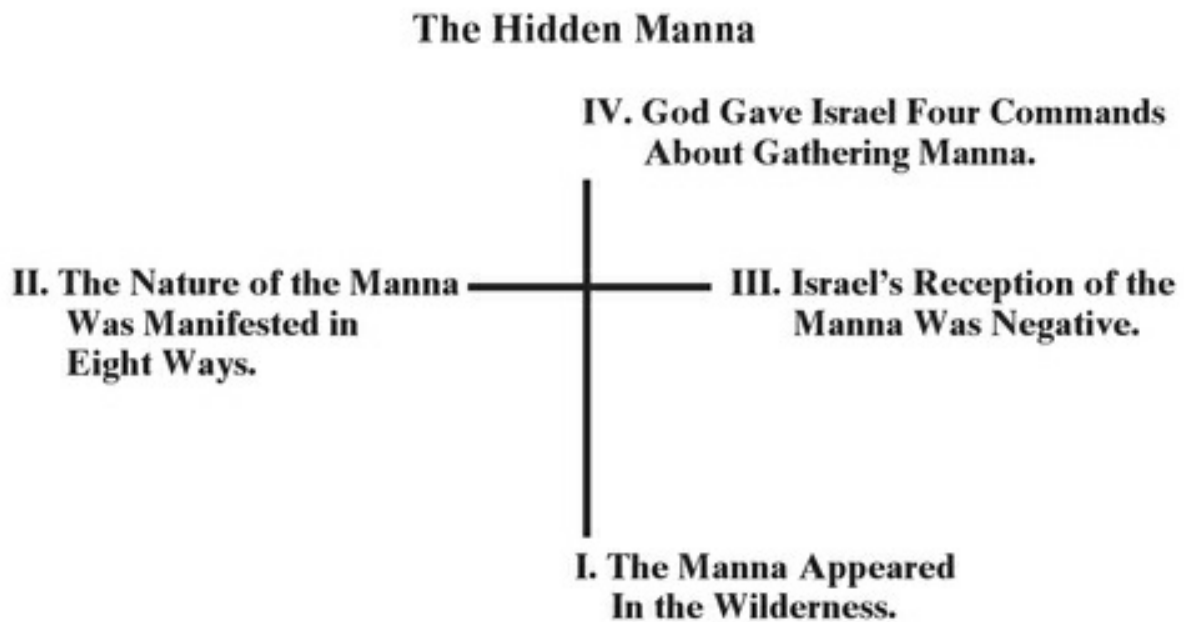
Studying the Stature of Truth in this lesson will help the believer understand the kind of Truth that God has for him to "eat" when he has grown sufficiently, and it will help him to know how to find this Truth for himself.

My prayer is that the LORD will bless His Word to readers' hearts as they study the lesson contained in this booklet about hidden, secret Truth, and that they may find the life-enriching Manna in God's Word that will feed their hungry souls.

— The Author

Hidden Manna from Heaven

The following Stature of Truth takes us back to the study of the Manna in its type and shadow form in the Old Testament so that we can gain a greater understanding of the hidden Manna that God gives us through His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in the New Testament. The Old Testament account answers these important questions about the Manna: From where did the Manna appear? What was its Nature? How was it received by the people? What was God's Command about gathering the Manna?



I. The Manna Appeared in the Wilderness.

Israel's first experience with Manna took place in the wilderness in the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt.

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, **on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.** And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. Then said the LORD unto Moses, **Behold, I will rain bread from heaven** for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.... And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay **a small round thing**, as small as the hoar frost on the ground (Exodus 16:1-4,13,14).

As *spiritual* food, the Manna belongs to the Head-realm of the Stature of Jesus Christ. This means that it is from the highest part of the Truth in His Stature. One way that we know that this is true is because, later on in Israel's journey, an omer full of the Manna was placed in a Golden Pot and preserved in the Ark of the Testimony (along with the Golden Censer, Aaron's Rod that budded, and the Tables of the Covenant [Hebrew 9:1-4]).

The Ark was placed in the Holy of Holies, the highest realm of the Old Testament Tabernacle; hence, it was a picture of Christ's Headship. We know, then, that the Manna belongs to the highest realm of the Stature of Jesus Christ since the Golden Pot of Manna was placed in the Ark.

Another way we know that Manna came from the highest realm of Christ's Stature is that it came out of God's Glory Cloud which abode in the Holy of Holies. Because the Ark rested in the midst of God's Glory, the presence of the Manna in the Ark was a witness that it originally had come out of God's Glory.

And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto 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.** And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and **in the morning ye shall be filled with bread;** and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God (Exodus 16:10-12).

Knowing that the Manna or Bread came directly from God's Glorious Presence should have been enough to inspire great fear and great faith in the hearts of the children of Israel. Unfortunately, the people, as a whole, failed to show the proper respect for God's Holy Bread.

A. The Manna Came Down from Heaven.

There can be no doubt about the Heavenly Origin of the Manna, for God Himself declared, "...Behold, *I will rain bread from heaven for you;...*"

Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, **I will rain bread from heaven** for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no (Exodus 16:4).

The Manna was God's secret, hidden Bread. Since it appeared from Heaven, it also was *Heavenly* Bread. God gave this Bread to the children of Israel in order to prove them, to see if they really wanted to grow up to the Head-realm of His Son's Spiritual Stature and go to Canaan's Land.

God is so good to His children because, although the Bread is from the Head-realm, the exalted place of the Ark of the Covenant, He gives believers a foretaste of this Bread while they are in the low place in order to see whether or not they really want to grow up in Christ's Stature and go to spiritual Canaan's Land. The hidden Manna from the Head-realm is given to prove whether or not a believer really desires to be in the Bride of Jesus Christ.

In the beginning of their journey, the people of Israel cried for Bread, and God gave it to them. Later, however, they murmured and complained about the Bread, accusing it of being "light Bread," with insufficient strength to take them to Canaan's Land. It was unspeakably sad that the Israelites, God's children, despised the Manna (the Heavenly Bread) when God gave it to them in a natural form in the wilderness. But, it is a far greater tragedy for God's people, today, who have been given the True Bread, Jesus Christ, to declare that they want to grow up into Christ's Spiritual Maturity and be in His Bride, and then, discover, along in their spiritual journey, that their souls loathe the True Heavenly Bread (Christ's Truth), just because they are asked to gather it and eat it in the low, humility place of the Crucified Way.

B. The Manna Was Revealed Early in the Morning.

Although the Israelites murmured and complained against the LORD's Holy Headship and against His chosen leaders, Moses and Aaron, God did not close His merciful, gracious Ears to their hungry cries. Early in the morning, He mercifully and graciously revealed His Manna.

And Moses said, This shall be, when **the LORD shall give** you in the evening flesh to eat, and **in the**

morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD (Exodus 16:8).

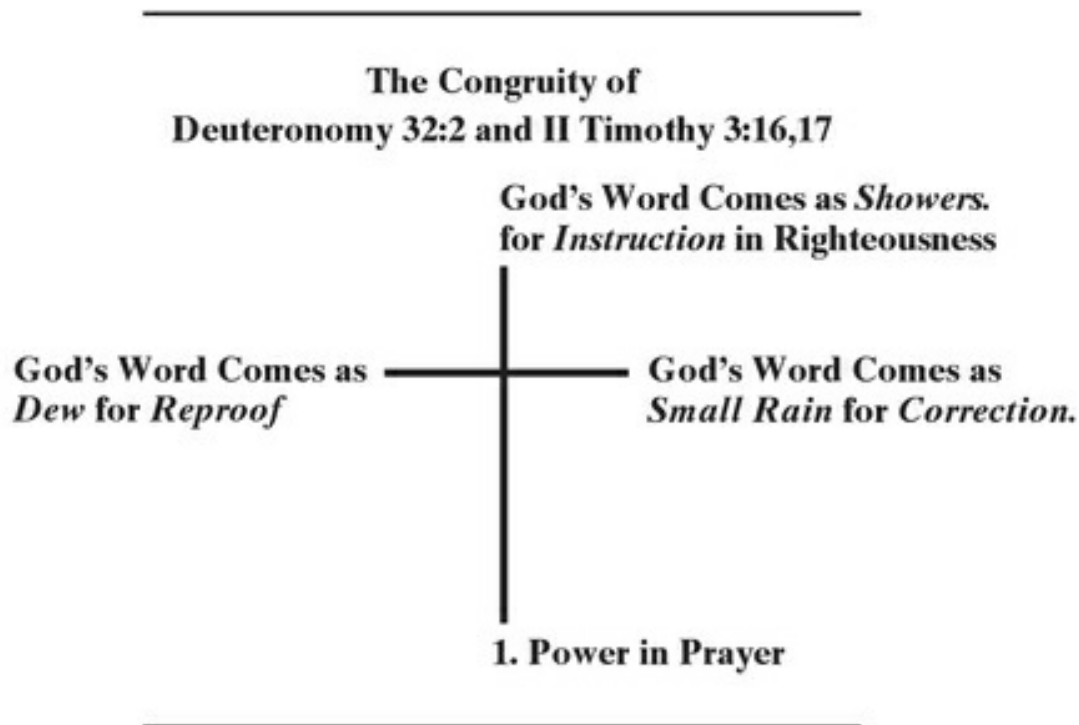
Certain portions of Truth in God's Word are like Manna; they are revealed only as the faithful Christian believer arises early in the morning to study God's Word and to seek His Face in prayer. That is why it is so important to begin the day with the LORD in prayer and in the study of His Holy Word.

C. The Manna Was Hidden in the Low Place in the Dew on the Ground.

God did not spread the Manna out on an exalted table that was set up in the high place. He hid it in the dew that fell in the low, humble place on the ground.

And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host. **And when the dew that lay was gone up,** behold, upon the face of the wilderness **there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground** (Exodus 16:13,14).

Dew represents reproof. This Truth is revealed in the joining of two Scriptures — one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. Deuteronomy 32:2 says that God's Word comes as *drops*, as *dew*, as *small rain*, and as *showers*. Second Timothy 3:16 says that *all Scripture is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction* in righteousness.



The Divine Doctrine of God's Word falls a drop at a time. His Reproof settles in as dew. His Words of Correction fall as small rain. His Instruction in Righteousness falls as showers upon the dry, thirsty land.

God hides His Heavenly Manna in the low place of humility or in the dew of reproof. Dew, in the natural realm, steals in softly, quietly — almost imperceptibly. If God were to reprove His children with hailstones or even with strong showers, the experience would devastate them. God *does* reprove His children, but because of His manifold Mercy and great Grace, He does it gently, like the gentle falling of the dew. The more willing the believer is to humble his proud heart and accept His Reproof, the more God will open His Word to the believer's eyes and quicken it to his heart; therefore, the believer can run faster in his spiritual race.

D. The Manna Rested upon the Dew that Fell in the Night Season.

In the Old Testament Tabernacle, the Glory Cloud of God's Presence rested upon the Mercy Seat that covered the Ark of the Covenant. The Manna came out of the exalted heights of the *Kabode* Glory-Cloud of Light and found a resting place in the lowly dew upon the ground in the dark night season. The Manna came from the heights of God's exalted Glory-Light down to the depths of God's humility Dew that fell upon the ground in the night season.

And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it (Numbers 11:9).

After the dew had fallen in the night season, the Manna came to rest upon the dew. After the Manna had fallen upon the first layer of dew, God sent another layer of dew to cover the Manna. Thus, the Manna was hidden in a "dewy chest" in the darkness of the night.

And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning **the dew lay round about the host**. And **when the dew that lay was gone up**, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground (Exodus 16:13,14).

The darkness of the night season hid the Manna's form and shape. Then, God sent the morning light in the sun's radiating rays to remove the upper portion of the dew, revealing the Manna's visible presence to the Israelites.

This Principle also works in the believer's spiritual night seasons. God gives the believer His hidden Manna, the portions of His Humility Truth-Word that will make the Surrender, Separation, and Sanctification of the Crucified Christ alive and precious to the believer's heart. Then, when the morning comes, shedding forth the Resurrected Christ's Radiating Rays that dry up and remove the top layer of dew, God's hidden Humility-Manna is revealed, which allows the believer to enjoy feeding in a new way on the Truth which before was so obscure to him.

Man's human senses are pitifully limited. They are unable to penetrate the covering of the great cloud of darkness wherein lies God's hidden Truth. People perceive an infinitesimally small measure of what there is to see.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him (I Corinthians 2:9).

God's Great Wisdom and Humility Truth lie outside the sphere of proud, human discovery. Man cannot find Wisdom and Truth apart from the Light of Christ's Revelation. The foregoing verse certainly confirms the limitations of man's finite human senses; yet, the very next verse describes God's Faithfulness to reveal these things to the believer by His Spirit.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God (I Corinthians 2:10).

It is a glorious privilege to know the LORD Jesus Christ and to be able to seek Him in prayer and in the study of His Word until the hidden Humility-Truths of the Crucified Christ are revealed by the Resurrected Christ; once this happens, God's Word becomes alive in the believer's mind and heart. The darkness and mystery of the Crucified Christ's Surrender, Separation, and Sanctification burst forth through the glorious Light of the glorious Light of the Resurrected Christ. The unknown then becomes known.

After this experience, the eye can See; the ear can Hear, and the heart can Understand the deep, hidden mysteries of God's Word because God, through His Spirit, reveals these things to those who are willing to accept the Dew of His Reproof.

To summarize the first major point in the Stature of Truth we are studying about Manna, let us reiterate that the Manna Israel received from God in the wilderness came down from Heaven. It was revealed to the Israelites early in the morning; until then, it was hidden in the low place, small as hoar frost on the ground. The Manna fell in the night season, coming to rest upon the first layer of dew; then, it was covered with the second layer of dew. The dew acted as an enclosure or "chest" to hold the Manna. Because it was enclosed in a "dewy chest," the Manna was hidden from view until the sun's rays disclosed it.

The hidden Manna in the Old Testament was a type and shadow of the hidden Truths in God's Word which are

hidden in His “Chest of Obscurity” until they are revealed through the resurrected Glory-Light of the Christ in the New Testament. Believers can eat of the hidden Manna if they grow in Spiritual Stature to the Head-realm of Jesus Christ because Manna is not for babes and sucklings who need only Christ’s sincere Milk of Truth in His Word to feed them. The believer must prove that he wants to grow to maturity by persevering in prayer and study. As he feeds on the different kinds of Truth that are offered him in God’s Word, the believer will grow spiritually and eventually be a partaker of the hidden Manna in the Ark of the Covenant or Christ’s Head-realm of Stature. Although the immature Christian will have had foretastes of the Heavenly Manna, a steady diet of Manna is reserved for those who are spiritually mature.

Israel also had to understand the Nature of the Manna, if she were to grow in faith and trust in the LORD’s Headship.

II. The Nature of the Manna Was Manifested in Seven Ways.

To the overcomers of the evil in the Church of Pergamos, God promised to give the Head-realm Manna or exalted Bread which was hidden in the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies.

Although believers may not have grown spiritually to the Head-realm of the Stature of Jesus Christ, God, in His Love and Mercy, will give them a foretaste of His hidden Manna as they journey through the deserts and wildernesses of this world. The Israelites experienced blood, Fire, and Water when they were delivered from Egypt; then, they entered into the wilderness phase of their spiritual journey and were fed with the Manna of Christ’s Body of Truth. In other words, they were given a foretaste of the Bread that they would receive in Canaan’s Land, Married land, when they would be living under His Headship as a Spiritual Husband.

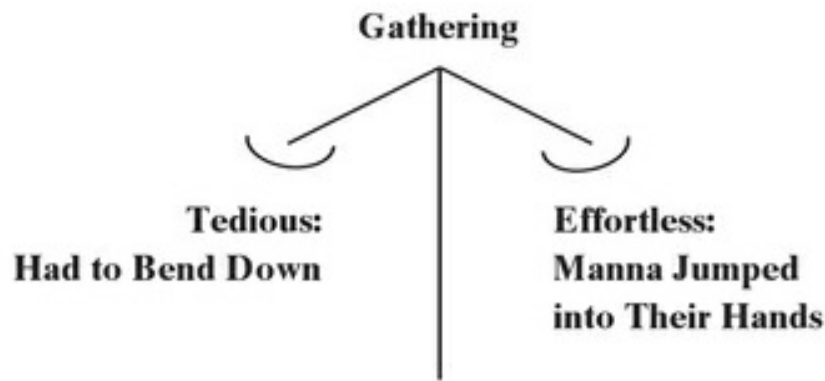
Believers, today, are delivered from “Egypt” or sin by experiencing Christ’s Blood, Fire, and Water. Then, they enter their spiritual wildernesses where they learn to come under God’s Governmental Headship. If believers refuse to come under the LORD’s Governmental Rule during their espousal period, they cannot expect to come under His Governmental Headship as His married Wife. God promises to give the believer a *taste* of His hidden Manna all through his desert and wilderness journey; by this, God proves the believer to see if he really wants to go all the way with Him. In so many words, God says, “I will see if you will allow Me to change your mind, change your palate, and to give you a taste for this Manna. I will see if you have a circumcised mouth that will allow you to appreciate the taste of My Governmental Manna-Bread.”

The Spiritual Nature of God’s *hidden* Manna is revealed in the eight characteristics of the Manna that God gave Israel to eat in the wilderness.

The first characteristic of the Nature of the Manna was that it manifested itself in small bits or portions.

A. The Manna Was Small.

When a person is physically hungry, he sometimes thinks he needs to eat a huge meal when, in reality, a sandwich would be enough to satisfy him. When believers are spiritually hungry, they often think that it will take some big revelation to satisfy them. However, when Israel was hungry, God did not give her great loaves of bread (big revelations). He gave her *small* Manna, which she had to humble herself to receive by bending down to gather it. This was a tedious exercise. On the other hand, the gathering of the Manna was almost effortless because, when they knelt to pick it up, the Manna jumped into their hands!



And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a **small** round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground (Exodus 16:14).

Manna, God’s hidden Truth, is not given in big “chunks.” It always is given in small bits and pieces. The Hebrew word for *small* means small or thin, dwarf, leanfleshed, very little thing; it comes from a root word that means to crush, to crumble, to beat in pieces (small), bruise, make into dust, powder, be very small, stamp small.

When believers realize the kind of effort that it is necessary to expend in order to gather Manna, do they find themselves hungry enough spiritually to get down on their knees and begin looking for this small Humility Manna-Truth, which is found in a small crumb at a time? The search for Christ’s Manna-Bread of Truth requires persistence, effort, labour, and determination on the believer’s part, but when God sends His revelation, it springs into the believer’s heart and mind in an amazingly effortless way. So, gathering Spiritual Manna is like Israel’s gathering of the natural Manna: it is both an effort, and it is effortless.

Although God gave His Precious, Heavenly Manna to the Israelites, they did not develop a taste for it because they did not allow God to sanctify their taste for Egyptian food. Consequently, they never really knew, by spiritual experience, the Nature of God’s Manna-Bread. In the end, they grumbled and complained against the Bread, saying that their soul loathed this “light” or insufficient Bread. They did not think that the Manna was satisfying enough to appease all their physical desire for food nor strong enough to impart sufficient strength for their journey to Canaan’s Land; therefore, they wanted meat to go along with the Manna-Bread. So, God gave them meat; and, then, He slew the fattest of the ungrateful, greedy sinners to prove that He is the Originator of Life and the Maintainer of Life, through His Master Plan and Purposive Will.

Life is dispersed by God through His Master Plan and Purposive Will; therefore, there was *plenty of strength* in the *small* Manna-Bread which He sent to the Israelites. If they had eaten the small Manna-Bread with faith and gratitude, they would have been abundantly satisfied and strengthened by it. They also would have grown spiritually to the Head-realm, and they would have entered into Canaan’s Land.

The Nature of God’s Manna is to separate itself into small bits and portions, both in the natural realm and in the spiritual realm. Therefore, instead of despising it for its smallness, believers should begin seeking and searching for Christ’s hidden Manna because it is the Bread of Life, Satisfaction, and Strength that will enable them to go through the wilderness of this world and enter into spiritual Canaan’s Land in the New City.

The second characteristic of the Nature of the Manna was that it manifested itself in a round form.

B. The Manna Was Round.

The Manna, with its small, round form, was not visible before the top layer of dew had evaporated. The small, round Manna was entirely transparent; therefore, it was not distinguishable as it lay within the drops of its “dew chest.” The drops of dew were like a shell that encased the *round*, crystal Nut/Seed of Life and Strength. The “dew chest” or shell kept the round, crystal Nut/Seed of Manna very fresh and free from all outward contamination.

God’s giving and protecting of the Manna, the round, crystal Nut/Seed, was quite miraculous. First, God sent a

protective bottom layer of dewdrops upon the ground. Second, the round, crystal Nut/Seed rained down and lay upon the dew; thus, the dewdrops protected the Manna by preventing it from touching the ground. Third, God sent a second or top layer of dew to cover the round Nutlike Seed; consequently, the transparent Manna, within the transparent dew, was invisible to all creation. Fourth, God miraculously controlled the radiating rays of the early morning sunlight so that the warmth of the rays evaporated the top layer of dew without evaporating the bottom layer of dew and without melting the round, crystal Nut/Seed. When exposed, after being hidden within its “dewy chest,” the Israelites could scoop the crystal grains of Manna from off the bottom layer of dew.

God miraculously worked with such tender, loving care in maintaining the life and strength of His people in the wilderness! What unparalleled ingratitude Israel returned unto the LORD for His special Provision of the round, crystal Nut/Seeds!

And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small **round** thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground (Exodus 16:14).

The Hebrew word for *round* means to peel, to shred, to scale. These meanings reveal that the Manna was made in layers, just as a round pearl is made up of many layers. There was tremendous power of life and strength in one small, round, crystal Nut/Seed of God’s Heavenly Manna that fell in the wilderness to maintain Israel’s life and strength. Moreover, there is Omnipotent Power in even one small, round, crystal Seed of Truth in Christ Jesus, God’s Spiritual Manna, that will give believers life and strength to stride forward in their spiritual education and moral development.

The third characteristic of the Nature of the Manna was its fragility.

C. The Manna Was Fragile.

The Manna that God gave to Israel in the wilderness was as fragile as the small hoar frost on the ground. The delicate structure of the Manna rendered it easily broken; hence, the Israelites had to experience great care and concern as they gathered it. The fragile Nature of the Manna should have produced fear and increased gratitude toward the LORD in the hearts of the Israelites. Instead, the frail, delicate Nature of the Manna only increased their angry ingratitude for God’s Master Plan and Purposive Will.

And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, **as small as the hoar frost** on the ground (Exodus 16:14).

Knowing the fragile nature of icy hoar frost in the natural realm explains the fragile Nature of Israel’s Manna. Frost melts quickly when it is touched by warm hands because the nature of a warm-blooded being is contrary to the nature of frost. Likewise, Christ’s Spiritual Manna of Truth is easily damaged, broken, and shattered; and it quickly vanishes when a person tries to handle it with hands that are heated with the passions of anger, pride, errors, and falsehoods.

How small is frost? Notice, on a chilly morning, that nothing is too small for God to cover with His frost. God covers the smallest piece of grass or the thinnest twig with an icy blanket of hoar frost. If a person does not cover his hands with gloves when he goes outdoors on a cold morning, his hands will become cold; and, then, he can gather God’s natural, icy frost since his hands will take on the same cold nature of the frost. If believers will allow Jesus Christ to remove their “gloves” of anger, pride, errors, and falsehoods, their hands will take on the icy Humility Nature of Jesus. Then, they will be able to gather up the fragile Manna or “Hoar Frost” of Christ’s Humility Truths without shattering, damaging, and breaking them with their own proud errors and falsehoods.

In order to preserve Christ’s Spiritual Manna-Truths through the heat of the day, believers need a “spiritual refrigerator” that is composed of Christ’s cold Humility Breath. God’s Head-realm Manna-Truth is very fragile. Therefore, the believer must lay hold of the coldness of Christ’s Humility Nature that accepts the Father’s Headship in all things; otherwise, he will have nothing with which he can protect Christ’s humble Bread of Truth.

Remember that Israel’s natural Manna was unveiled like hoar frost. Likewise, Christ’s Humility Truth of His Surrender, Separation, Sanctification, and Obedience unto Death is revealed in the Humility of the Crucified Christ.

If the believer allows his proud wrath and the heat of his proud, fleshly passions to rule and reign in his thoughts, emotions, feelings, and deeds, he will not be able to pick up Christ’s Manna-Bread of Truth. God’s Spiritual Manna

will melt and disappear in the heat of man's fleshly hand.

The fourth aspect of the Nature of Manna was that it was like a seed.

D. The Manna Was Like a Seed.

In spite of its smallness, its ordinary form, and its fragility, the Manna was powerful because it was like a seed; it had reproductive Life within it.

A natural seed contains an embryo of life that will develop into a new plant that is like its parent plant, if the seed is sown, fertilized, and allowed to grow to maturity.

And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and **it was like coriander seed**, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey (Exodus 16:31).

The nature of a natural seed is to reproduce the same kind of life that the parent plant has. For example, when a seed of corn is planted in the proper soil, fertilized, and allowed to grow, it produces a corn plant that has many grains of corn, and each of the fertilized seeds has within it the power to produce more corn plants.

In the spiritual realm, when a Living Seed of God's Manna-Truth is planted in the soil of the believer's heart, it will take root and grow under two conditions: (1) if it is fertilized with the Sufferings of the Crucified Christ and (2) if more room is created for it to grow in the believer's heart through mortification and crucifixion of unChrist-like thoughts and desires inherent in the believer's old, carnal heart. With more cleansing of the old heart comes more room for God's Living Seeds of Manna-Truth; therefore, they will continue to grow bigger and bigger, producing a Living Humility like unto Christ's Humility Life. As the believer eats of Christ's Living Manna-Truth, allowing it to be sown in the innermost parts of his heart, the Truth will produce the abundant life, strength, and spiritual growth that the believer needs to take him to spiritual Canaan's Land or the New City.

The fifth aspect of the Manna's Nature was its white colour.

E. The Manna Was White.

The Manna that God gave to the Israelites was white, which signified the purity of its Nature.

And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and **it was** like coriander seed, **white**; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey (Exodus 16:31).

God's natural Manna was pure. Likewise, His Spiritual Manna-Bread of Truth is pure and undefiled. Christ's Bread of Life and Truth has not been corrupted by the errors and falsehoods of man's unholy doctrines and ideas. It is white and pure.

The Hebrew word for *white* is *law-bawn*, meaning to be white. White is the reflecting of all light. The word *law-bawn* also is used in the Book of Ecclesiastes to describe clean, pure garments.

Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment (Ecclesiastes 9:8).

The whiteness of a believer's Spiritual Garments signifies a sinless life. When the heart and life are white and clean, the soul is cheerful and happy in the LORD.

God's Word verifies that in Eternity-Future all believers will wear *White Clothing*, either White Robes, White Raiment, or White Linen. God's Command to each individual is for him to see that his own clothing *always* is clean, pure, and white so that he can reflect the portion of Light of Christ's Spiritual Stature that he has attained through spiritual growth.

God's white Manna, which He gave to Israel, reflected the Light and Strength of His multifarious Mercy and glistening Grace that were given to make the Israelites cheerful and glad.

In the same manner, Christ gives the believer His pure, white Manna-Bread of Truth which reflects the Light and Strength of the Father's multifarious Mercy and glistening Grace.

Since a person becomes what he feeds upon, a Christian's miserable murmuring and contemptible complaining against God's Master Plan and Purposive Will in his life can be changed as he feeds on Christ's white Manna of

Truth. On Resurrection Morning, the saints' white Garments will reflect the Light and Joy of Jesus Christ's preserving Mercy and His illuminating Grace.

The sixth aspect of the Nature of the Manna, which God rained down from Heaven, was its sweetness to man's taste.

F. The Manna Tasted Sweet.

The Manna, which Israel ate in the wilderness, tasted like wafers sweetened with honey. God's *appointed* food had the taste of nectar sucked from the fragrant blossoms of fresh flowers and digested by bees. Digested nectar becomes honey, and honey is the easiest and most quickly absorbed food that the body ingests. Likewise, because the Manna that God sent to Israel had been digested by His Son, Christ, it was a predigested food, which made it the easiest and quickest food for the Israelites' bodies to assimilate. With this sweet, tasteful food, God preserved the physical life of His people so that they could study His *Torah*-Truth and not only find its sweetness as Spiritual Food for their souls but also discover its Governing, Guiding Light for their spiritual lives. In other words, God's *Torah*-Truth was to be His "Ruling Queen" over Israel's Spiritual Life and natural life, both of which had been given to them and sustained by God.

And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like **wafers made with honey** (Exodus 16:31).

Although the Israelites ate God's sweet Manna, they gained neither an appreciation for it nor a knowledge of its natural sweetness. In fact, they loathed God's Manna-Bread because they were such strangers to the strength of its sweetness.

God's Spiritual Manna also tastes sweet to believers after they have allowed the LORD to sanctify their palates so that they can taste God's sweet Honey of Truth.

David found the LORD's *Torah*-Truth sweeter than honey and the honeycomb.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: **sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb** (Psalm 19:10).

A person always can tell when God's Word is sweet to his spiritual taste by the smooth, agreeable, pleasant reaction of his heart and will.

Eating the carnal bread of man's doctrines in this world will corrupt a Christian's palate and taste buds, causing God's sweet Bread of Truth to appear bitter to his taste.

The Prophet Isaiah cried out against those who call evil good, and good evil; those who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; those who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter (Isaiah 5:20). God pronounced woeful sorrow, affliction, and trouble upon those who traded God's sweet Bread of Truth for the bitter food of this world. As long as believers are feasting on the bitter bread of this world, they cannot taste the sweetness of God's Manna-Truth.

The seventh characteristic of the Manna's Nature was that it was firm and hard.

G. The Manna Was Firm and Hard

After the Israelites obediently had gathered the Manna, God did another miracle by transforming the fragile nature of the Manna into a nature of firmness and hardness.

And the people went about, and gathered it, and **ground it** in mills, or **beat it** in a mortar, and **baked it** in pans, and made cakes of it... (Numbers 11:8).

Although God miraculously provided the Manna, Israel could not use it without working to gather it; then, they had to grind it, pound it, and cook or bake it.

The mystery of the Manna was paradoxical. While the Manna lay in its dewy chest, it was extremely *fragile*; and what *remained* ungathered by the Israelites *melted* under the radiating rays of the hot sun. *However*, the amounts gathered by the people *hardened* under the radiating rays of the sun so that they had to work before they ate it

because it had to be ground, beaten, and baked.

The eighth characteristic of the Manna's nature was that it tasted like fresh oil.

H. The Manna Tasted Like Oil.

God not only furnished them Bread, but He also "battered" their baked Bread, as it were, by making it taste like fresh oil. After the Manna had been baked, it tasted as if fresh oil or butter had been poured upon it.

...and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil (Numbers 11:8).

Thus, Israel's Manna-Bread was not ordinary bread. When the Israelites obediently gathered the Manna, prepared it, and baked it, God flavoured it with both honey and oil! The more it was subjected to the fire, the more it tasted like fresh oil — freshly anointed Bread.

Likewise, when the Holy Ghost Fire falls on God's Word of Truth, it is no longer a tasteless, lifeless letter, but it becomes quickened, animated, and alive in the believer's heart, thrilling and satisfying his soul with its sweetness and fresh anointing. Praise God for His True Bread, the LORD Jesus Christ, with His Omnipotent Power to strengthen and to satisfy!

A summary of the second point on the Stature of the Manna shows that the Nature of God's True Bread, both in the natural realm and in the spiritual realm, has the following characteristics: it is small, round, fragile; and it is a Seed. It is white, sweet, firm and hard, and oily to the taste.

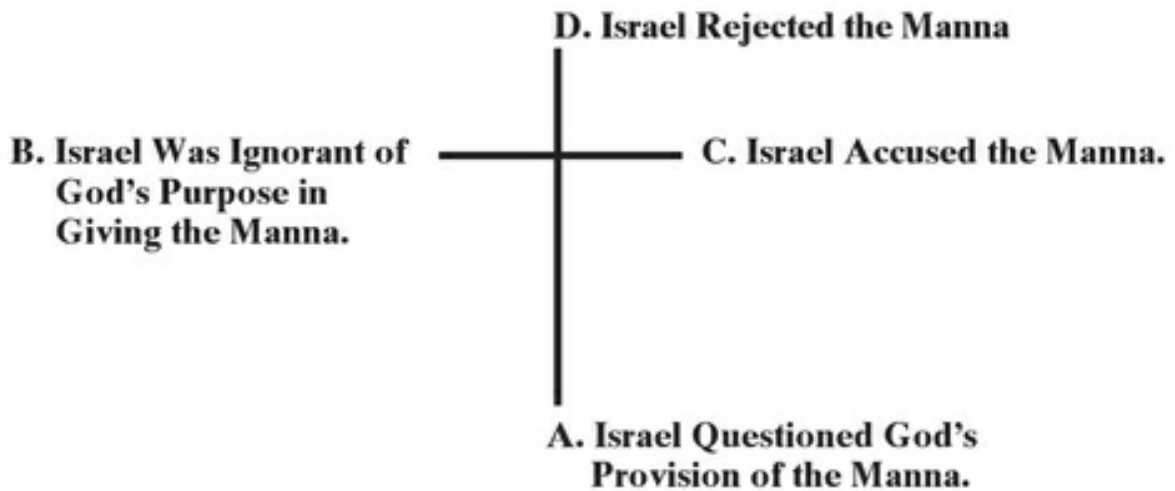
The revealed special attributes of the Nature of the Manna unveiled the shallowness and the unjustifiableness of Israel's miserable murmuring and contemptible complaining. They accused God's Manna-Bread of being monotonous, of having unvarying sameness. This was the reason, they said, why the Manna was unbearable. However, this was untrue. Had the rest of the Israelites eaten in faith, as Joshua and Caleb did, their bodies would have been completely strengthened, and their souls would have been perfectly satisfied.

For example, Joshua and Caleb ate of God's Manna-Bread for the first year that it took Israel to cross the wilderness and come to the border of Canaan's Land. Then, after God had judged the rebellious Nation of Israel and had sent them to wander in the wilderness, they continued to eat of God's Manna-Bread for the next forty years.

After all the old rebellers had died in the wilderness, Joshua and Caleb, with the new generation, entered into Canaan's Land. Joshua was sufficiently strong, both spiritually and naturally, so that he was able to take on the awesome task of leading Israel into triumphant victories over most of the enemies in Canaan's Land. Caleb was as strong at 85 years old as he had been at forty years old because he had eaten of God's Powerful Manna-Bread in faith. Caleb was perfectly capable of helping in conquering Hebron and in subjugating its inhabitants, all because of God's Manna-Bread. Thus, Joshua and Caleb's enduring strength and faith proved how shallow and how false were the accusations of the rebellious Israelites who died in the wilderness. God's Manna-Bread strengthened Joshua and Caleb to go to Canaan's Land in spite of their rebellious brethren.

III. Israel's Reception of the Manna Was Negative.

Israel was God's "Church" in the wilderness (Acts 7:38). If they had been spiritually minded and grateful, they would have recognized God's many miracles in giving them Bread in the wilderness that was both sweet and buttered. But, Israel's reception of the Bread was very negative.



A. Israel Questioned God's Provision of the Manna.

The first thing that the distrustful Israelites did in the wilderness was to question God's provision of food for them.

On the fifteenth day of the first month, God miraculously liberated Israel from Egypt's outward, binding chains, bringing them through the Red Sea to *physical freedom* in the wilderness. God saved them from slavery and death in Egypt, giving them liberty and life!

Once they were in the wilderness, their minds and souls had to be freed from the binding chains of slavish fear and tormenting inferiority over how they would provide daily sustenance for themselves and their families. Faith in the LORD God's Holy Headship was the only force that could *liberate* their bound *minds* and *souls* from fear and inferiority, and their faith and trust could be achieved only by surrendering themselves exclusively to the LORD's Governance and Guidance.

God, in His merciful Master Plan and gracious Purposive Will, already had made provision for His people in the wilderness. God already had filled His Heavenly Granary with the Manna that awaited God's Command to fall from Heaven so that His hungry people could be fed.

However, Israel was so busy murmuring and complaining about being hungry that, when God sent the Manna, they were complete strangers to God's Plan and Purpose of providing for them. They had not prayed and sought God as to how He planned to provide for them. Because they had not prayed, but had murmured and complained, they never praised God for His provision of Manna-Bread. Instead of the Israelites saying, "Oh, praise God, this is the answer to our prayer," they questioned God's provision by asking, "What is it?"

When Israel first saw the Manna, they were completely unknowledgeable of what it was. They did not see its connection to God's provision for them.

And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, **It is manna: for they wist know what it was.** And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat (Exodus 16:15).

The Hebrew word for *Manna* means a "whatness" (so called from the question the Israelites asked; "What poor, fragile thing is this hidden in the dew?"). Obviously, the people were not impressed favourably with the humble, fragile *thing* that they saw lying upon the face of the wilderness. To their contemptible gaze, it did not appear to be something anyone would want to eat; and the small, humble, fragile Manna certainly did not appear to be able to impart Life and Strength to someone's body!

Unfortunately, when God gives believers, today, some of His spiritual Humility Manna, they often behave in the

same manner as the children of Israel. They may be praying for God to meet some definite need in their lives or to satisfy the deep longing of their hearts and souls; and, yet, when He presents them with His appointed situation that contains in it the Humility Manna of Christ Jesus, which will strengthen and satisfy them spiritually, they start crying, “What is it? This can’t be what I need! Why did God let this happen to me?”

If believers are unknowledgeable of God’s Master Plan and Purposive Will for their lives, they will be strangers to the Manna that proceeds forth from His Plan and Purpose.

In Israel’s reception of the Manna, her ignorance of God’s good Purpose in giving the Manna was displayed.

B. Israel Was Ignorant of God’s Good Purpose in Giving the Manna.

Israel ate God’s small, fragile Manna, but they were ignorant of God’s Divine Purpose in giving it. God gave them Manna to humble them, to prove them, to see if they really wanted to go to Canaan’s Land. If they would have had faith in God’s Purpose for testing them, they would have known that God’s Purpose included bringing them *good* at the latter end.

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, **and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know;** that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.... Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, **which thy fathers knew not,** that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, **to do thee good at thy latter end** (Deuteronomy 8:3,16).

The children of Israel went out and gathered Manna. They ate it and even served it to their children, but they never “knew” God’s good Purpose in giving it. They never saw the LORD’s good intention to do them good at the latter end, which was to bring them to Canaan’s Land as victorious conquerors! They always had an evil imagination about the LORD’s good intentions. They always sinfully surmised that God had brought them up to the wilderness to kill them. They never knew the good thing He had in His Mind to do for those who submissively would allow the Manna to work Christ’s true Humility and Patience in their hearts.

When believers are ignorant of something that God has allowed to happen or to be in their lives, they need to learn how to wait patiently and sweetly on the LORD until He explains “what” it is and “what” His good Purpose is in sending it. God allows His children to experience certain situations in order to humble them and to prove them in order to see if they will wait for Him to bring a new revelation of His Goodness to birth in their hearts.

God’s Purpose in sending the small, fragile Manna was to teach Israel, His Espoused Bride, that man’s existence does not depend upon physical bread only. Apart from natural sustenance, God’s Word is the Divine Force that sustains man in his progress in life. Hence, when believers learn this Truth, they trust God for their lives in difficult places. They do not murmur and complain because they *know* He will do them *good* in the end of their trial.

Israel’s reception of the Manna included accusing God’s Holy Manna-Bread.

C. Israel Accused the Manna-Bread.

Instead of offering praise and gratitude to God for His provision of food, the lustful children of Israel, in their vile suspicion of God’s Goodness, offered up accusations against the Manna-Bread.

And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But now our soul is dried away: *there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes* (Numbers 11:4-6).

Sinful discontent is contagious! The discontented ones were not in great suffering; they were seeking for some pretext to grumble and mumble. Their discontent spread until most of the children of Israel wept out of painful lust for flesh to eat. What unspeakable sadness enters a sincere heart when it sees that these “slave-souls” preferred Egypt’s garlic and slavery to God’s Manna-Bread of freedom.

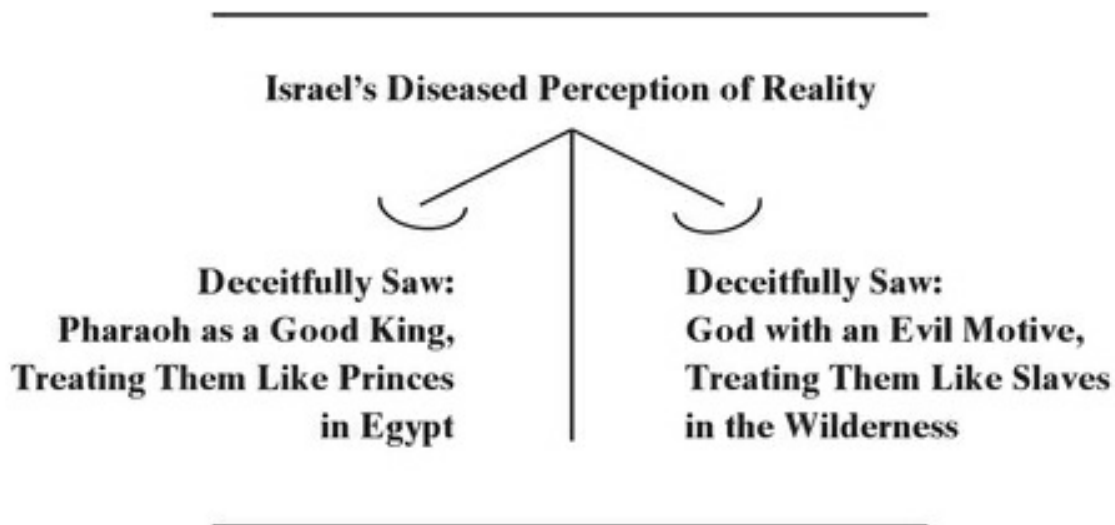
Notice the three classes of food mentioned here: meat (fish), vegetables (cucumbers, leeks, onions, and garlic), and fruit (melons). The fish speak of freedom from care. In so many words, they were saying, “We remember those

carefree days down in Egypt when we ate of the fish.” Was that the Truth? No, of course not! They were *slaves* in Egypt; they were not carefree.

The cucumbers and the melons speak of the satisfying of the flesh. Were they truly satisfied while they lived in Egypt? Again, the answer is “No!” If they had been satisfied, God would not have told Moses, “...I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and *have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters*; for I know their sorrows;” (Exodus 3:7). Had the Israelites been satisfied in Egypt, they would not have cried for deliverance.

The leeks, the onions, and the garlic speak of the vegetable seasonings and spices that stimulate the fleshly appetite. They said, “We remember all those tasty things that we had to eat back in Egypt, and now all we have is this bland tasting Manna.” They complained, “Our soul is dried away.” Their souls had dried away because of their sinful murmuring and complaining, not because of the Manna Bread. Thus, they began to accuse the Manna-Bread, which was God’s symbolical picture of the Flesh of Jesus Christ.

Their diseased perception of reality caused them to switch the Truth for a lie. They vainly imagined that Pharaoh had treated them like princes in Egypt and that God was treating them like slaves in the wilderness. How much this is like Christians, today, who sometimes think in their hearts that God is not as good to His children as the Devil is to his.



Their proud, arrogant opinion of themselves made them believe they *deserved more* than God’s small, fragile Manna. Consequently, they accused, found fault with, and blamed the Manna-Bread for all the miserable thoughts and feelings they were experiencing in the wilderness. Strangely enough, *when they were in Egypt, they had accused Pharaoh and his people* for their miserable thoughts and feelings.

This example of how falsely the flesh can accuse God’s Goodness should teach believers that if they do not allow God to deal with their inner, miserable, accusing thoughts and feelings, they will keep them in their hearts and carry them wherever they go; and they always will find a new scapegoat on which to blame the misery of their thoughts and feelings.

It is a sin to be miserable, discontented, and to accuse something or someone else falsely. Christians can be healed of these emotional and mental calamities only when they see their own sicknesses and, then, repent of them and give them over to the River of Remission of Christ’s Blood.

There was nothing wrong with God’s Bread! It was Humble Bread, Holy Bread, Heavenly Bread. The problem was that the Israelites failed to deal with their emotions and mental maladies; therefore, they could not develop a taste for the LORD’s Manna-Bread. They accused the Bread, blaming it for being responsible for the dry, miserable state of their souls when, in reality, they had brought their miserableness out of Egypt with them. They never truly had repented of it. Consequently, they were the ones to blame for not letting God’s Holy Bread work in them a desire for Christ’s Holiness and Humility.

Israel’s reception of the Manna also showed her ultimate rejection of it.

D. Israel Rejected the Manna.

The children of Israel did not reject the Manna the first day that God gave it to them. Their rejection happened gradually. First, they questioned the Manna; then, they continued to be ignorant of God's Good Purpose for giving the Manna; next, they accused the Manna; and, finally, they came to hate it to the point of rejecting it.

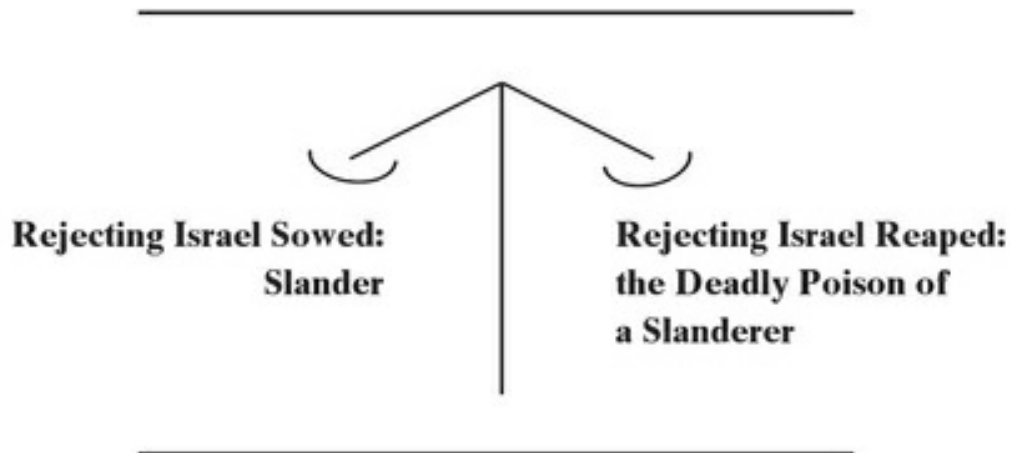
And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and **our soul loatheth this light bread**. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died (Numbers 21:5,6).

In some Hebrew translations, the text reads as follows: "Our soul is harassed through this light bread." This shows that God's Manna-Bread convicted and tried to convince them of the error of their ways.

In their discontent, the people slandered God, slandered His Messenger, and slandered His Manna-Bread. They were completely dissatisfied with all three. They slandered God's Guidance, which had not yet brought them to their goal, according to their finite timetables. Therefore, they slandered the LORD by accusing Him of having the evil intention of killing them in the wilderness. God's miraculous provision for them and their almost effortless work in gathering and their hard work in preparing the Manna became monotonous and boring to them.

Because they slandered God, His Messenger, and His Manna-Bread, God sent serpents to bite them. God sent the offspring of *the* Serpent, who had been punished for his slanderous statements about the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, to exact punishment on these ungrateful people who had uttered slander against God, against His Messenger, and against His Manna-Bread (which, depending upon their faith, had the taste of many different dainties).

Because the Israelites rejected God's Manna-Bread, by discarding it as useless and by casting it away as worthless, they slandered God, His Messenger, and His Manna-Bread. Consequently, they died for their slander, becoming the victims of poisonous venom from the fangs of serpents whose father was a *slanderer*.



These slanderers, all of whom rejected God's Manna Bread, did not reap the results of their slandering suddenly. Gradually, over a period of time, they had rejected and slandered; so, finally, they were punished.

Neither do believers, today, reject Christ's Crucified Way all at once. The Devil sneaks in and is able to deceive some people concerning the true Nature of Christ's Humility Bread of Truth. When believers are ignorant about something, even in the natural realm, they are insensible of its true worth and value; and, when they have no understanding of its value, they accuse it and, eventually reject it.

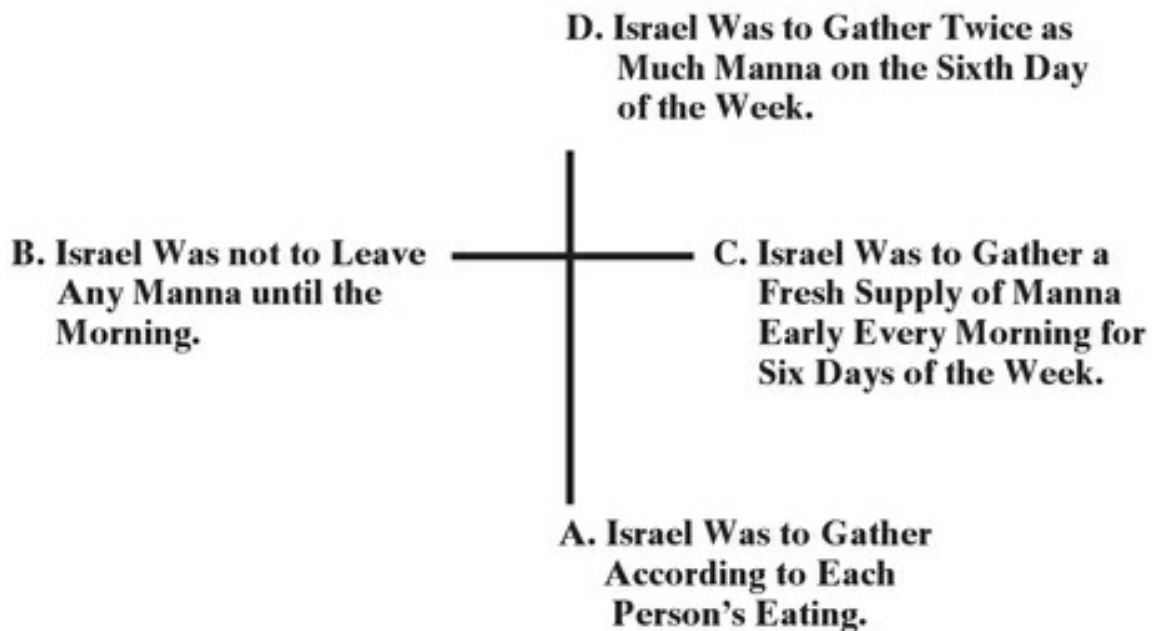
This is how people, although they have eaten of the Humble Bread of Truth of the Crucified Christ at one time, eventually find themselves questioning it, becoming ignorant of God's good Purpose about it, accusing it, and finally rejecting it. Their process of rejection has happened little by little.

This third point on the Stature of the Manna presents the believer with a very serious example of where slander of God's Provision of Life and Freedom lead — to death. Beloved, let us beseech God to grant us the Wisdom to be gratefully appreciative for Jesus Christ, the Living Bread, when He comes in His Humility Form of Manna, even when we do not understand all we would like to understand about it. Let us humble ourself and wait, in faith

believing, for Jesus Christ's Illuminating Grace to enlighten our eyes of understanding, lest we, too, become guilty of questioning, of being ignorant, of accusing, and of rejecting Christ's Humility Bread of Truth and, therefore, die prematurely before we have attained the Prize of being in Christ's Bride.

IV. God Gave Four Commands about Gathering the Manna.

The children of Israel did not receive the Manna in the right manner; consequently, they did not properly carry out the four Commands God gave them about gathering it.



A. Israel Was to Gather According to Each Person's Eating.

God stipulated a set amount of Manna that could be gathered by each individual in a day's time. Each Israelite was to gather as much as he could eat *and no more*. God had two reasons for setting a limit on the Manna. On one side of the scales, God did not want the Manna to be hoarded up by a few, while others went hungry. On the other side of the scales, He did not want the Manna to be wasted or allowed to spoil before it could be eaten.

This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, **Gather of it every man according to his eating**, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents (Exodus 16:16).

The Israelites were commanded to gather Manna according to the requirements of their households. They were to bring home *one* omer for each person in their families. However, if one person gathered more than the commanded amount and another person gathered less, when they measured it, each one miraculously had the exact amount according to the Command.

God helped the people's finite infirmities and weaknesses when they had gathered with the good intention of collecting the right quantity. Having a pure intent was the essential, indispensable condition to be met in order to receive God's miraculous help in increasing or decreasing the Manna until it filled one omer.

From this example, the believer learns that if he industriously and conscientiously performs his work with a good intention, he can rely on God's miraculous blessing to increase or decrease his work according to God's Master Plan

and Purposive Will.

Believers, today, are to gather Christ's Spiritual Manna according to their capacity; and, if they are leaders, they are to gather according to their spiritual families. There is plenty of Christ's Humility Bread in God's Storehouse. Praise God! There is no danger of His Infinite Supply running short. Remember, in the New Testament account of Jesus' feeding the multitude, Jesus blessed and gave thanks for the Bread; then He began breaking it. The more Bread He broke off, the greater the supply increased. Every time the Disciples returned for more Bread, they found that it had increased until, finally, everyone was fed, and baskets of food were left over.

Jesus is still breaking His Precious, Living Bread to His children. Acts 2:36 tells us that Jesus, through His Death, Burial, and Resurrection, has been made both Lord and Christ. Since He now is Omnipresent, He is present with all His children. And, He is faithfully "breaking the Bread" of Himself and passing it out to the hungry, according to His Father's Commandment.

The Father has appointed each Christian a proper portion of Christ's Living Bread. The Father is impartial; therefore, He has an "omer" or a full portion of Bread for each person. God has appointed new portions for each believer to receive, daily, as he walks on to know Christ in greater ways. What a Wonderful, Glorious Bread to feed the hungry! The Living Bread of Jesus Christ's Flesh is sufficient in Strength to take every believer all the way *up* in Christ's Spiritual Stature and *on* to spiritual Canaan's Land, if believers will be faithful to gather their portion of Bread each day!

God's second Command about gathering the Manna was that Israel should not leave any of it until the morning. God wanted them to learn to work six consecutive days so that they would be fulfilling the *Torah*-Truth.

B. Israel Was Not to Leave Any Manna Until the Morning.

The people were not to hoard the Bread. God did not want the people to be stingy, stretching their supply of Manna until it lasted beyond the time that God had commanded. Those who tried to store it up, in defiance of God's Command to gather it daily, found that the Manna was spoiled the next morning.

Neither did God want any Manna wasted. He wanted their portions completely eaten each day.

And Moses said, **Let no man leave of it till the morning** (Exodus 16:19).

God gave a fresh supply of Manna-Bread, daily, which shows that He wants His children to eat the daily portions of Manna that they have gathered. When Jesus taught His Disciples how to pray, He told them to ask for *daily Bread*.

How wonderful it is to feed one's soul, daily, upon the fresh Living Bread of God's Holy Word. The believer cannot eat *today* for the Governmental Strength that he will need for *tomorrow*. He can walk under God's Headship day by day if he eats his daily Bread and gains fresh strength for each day. However, the believer cannot feed upon Christ's Manna-Bread of Truth unless he follows God's Provided Way of gathering it and eating it.

God's third Command said that the Manna was to be gathered afresh and anew every morning.

C. Israel Was to Gather a Fresh Supply of Manna Early Every Morning for Six Days of the Week.

The Manna was to be gathered early in the morning, before the sun came up and melted the Manna that remained on the bottom layer of dew.

And **they gathered it every morning**, every man according to his eating; and when the sun waxed hot, it melted (Exodus 16:21).

God appointed a time early in the morning for each Israelite to gather his allotted omer of Manna for the day. The remaining Manna was melted by the bright, radiating rays of the sun. The melted Manna ran in streams across the wilderness floor and the wild animals, the harts and the roes, drank from them.

History says that these animals became so special, because they drank the Manna-Water, that other people of the world hunted them. By eating the animals, other nations tasted Christ's Manna. Hence, they experienced how excellently God blessed Israel in the wilderness.

The melted Manna united with the dew and the Water out of the Rock, turning the desert into a paradise

throughout Israel's journey in the wilderness.

What a lesson this is for believers! First, the believer is to feed himself at God's appointed time because, after that, the time will come for Christ to share His Manna-Bread with His other creation.

Christians need to gather or glean the Manna of God's Word early in the morning, before their minds are filled with the cares and troubles of this world. Otherwise, they will miss what God has for them.

Thirty minutes of study and prayer in the morning is worth more than an hour of study at night. Certain kinds of Manna-Truth come in the morning that do not come at any other time. A person has to put forth a lot of effort to drag himself out of the bed, early, and begin to dig into God's Word so that he might find Christ's appointed portion of Manna-Truth for his heart and soul every day. God's rich Blessing and great Rewards are there for the person who perseveres in the early morning hours. These are hours in which God appoints a special time to open a person's understanding, which, in turn, enables him to lay hold of the deep, hidden Truths of God's Word.

The believer's daily experience with the LORD Jesus Christ does not have to be an old, "moth-eaten" one. God's Living Bread of Truth feeds, thrills, and satisfies the soul daily. It is new and fresh every day to the soul who arises in the morning to lay hold of it.

Gathering daily Bread robs life of its monotony. By eating daily Bread, the believer gains sufficient strength to climb every mountain of adversity and to overcome the enemies of his soul in every test and trial, making him a victorious Christian! If the believer will just gather Christ's Bread, daily, he will be amazed at how easy it becomes to follow Christ in His Humility Way. Everything that God's children need is in His Living Bread — the LORD Jesus Christ!

God's fourth Command about gathering the Manna instructed the Israelites to collect twice as much on the sixth day so that they would be prepared for the LORD's Sabbath Day.

D. Israel Was to Gather Twice as Much Manna on the Sixth Day of the Week.

God did not give the Israelites Manna on the seventh day of the week because it was the day of rest — a Sabbath unto the LORD and to man. Therefore, in order for them to have food on the Sabbath Day, they had to gather a double portion on the sixth day.

And it came to pass, that **on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread**, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses (Exodus 16:22).

God commanded the people to gather a double portion of Manna on the sixth day before He told them the reason for doing it. A little while later, when the Law was given concerning the Sabbath, the surprise of the Truth about the Sabbath made a more poignant imprint and impression on their hearts and souls.

The Israelites worked *doubly* hard on the sixth day to gather their Sabbath-Bread, which means that God had to perform a double miracle on that day in order to restrain the bright rays of the sun, giving Israel extra time to gather a double portion so that some could be saved for the Sabbath Day. This proves that what is stored up in God's Purposive Will is protected miraculously, by God's Infinite Divine Power, from becoming foul.

On the Sabbath Day, Israel ceased from her previous exertion of gathering Manna. The Sabbath Day of Rest is a memorial to God's six days of Work in creating the Earth and its world of inhabitants and to His Sovereign Dominion over them.

Subsequent to God's Day of Rest, the Sabbath became a day for man to come and lay all his works before his Owner and Master, thereby, acknowledging that his works owe their allegiance to God. All true believers are to show their submission to God in their works by ceasing them and coming to the LORD's House to worship and give Him praise on the seventh day.

Every day, for six days, God gave Manna to His people. On the sixth day, the people had to gather twice as much and work twice as hard because they knew that the Manna-Bread would not be there on the seventh day. They had to work hard to gather it, to grind it into flour, and then make it into Bread. Manna was not a quickly prepared food on any day, but especially not on the sixth day because they had to do a *double* portion of work in order to provide for the Sabbath.

Believers, today, also must labour, individually, in the Word and in prayer for six days, producing a double portion of work on the sixth day in order to feed on Christ's Manna-Truth on the seventh day. Then, on their day of rest from their labours, they can feed on the work of their sixth day.

Christ's Living Bread is sufficient to take believers all the way up unto the Measure of the Spiritual Stature of the Fullness of Christ — all the way to Canaan's Land and the New City. But, remember, the believer *must* work to gather Christ's Manna-Bread of Truth. He cannot sit around in a spiritual rocking chair and expect God's Holy Manna to fall into his lap. Paul told the Thessalonians: "...if any would not work, neither should he eat" (II Thessalonians 3:10). Certainly, if this Principle applies in the natural realm — and it does — then it most certainly means that work is required if believers want to eat spiritually.

Because the Israelites as a whole never let the LORD reveal to them the true Nature of the Manna, they failed to receive and respect it as God intended for them to do. Eventually, they rejected it as being insufficient or "light" Bread. In their estimation, the Manna was incapable of imparting to them the strength they needed to enter into Canaan's Land. So, God allowed this ungrateful generation to wander in the wilderness until they died.

Of all the mature Israelites who ate God's Manna in the wilderness, after coming out of Egypt, only four men ate in faith, with grateful attitudes; therefore, only these four mature males and their families lived and had the strength to cross Jordan and go into Canaan's Land. Joshua, Caleb, Eleazar, and Phinehas were *faithful* and *grateful*; therefore, they entered into Canaan's Land with their families.

Israel's experience shows that believers, today, cannot follow the unfaithful and ungrateful people in their generation and still reach their goal of entering spiritual Canaan's Land.

The four Israelite men who did make it into Canaan's Land are a fourfold witness to believers that the Manna actually did have sufficient satisfaction and strength to take every person who ate it, in humble faith and grateful appreciation, all the way through the wilderness and on into Canaan's Land!

The fact that *many* died short of their goal, without ever stepping foot onto the soil of Canaan's Land, was not the fault of the Bread. They died because they did not eat in faith but chose to persist in their unbelief in God's Good Motives. They died because they chose to continue indulging in their doubts about God's Good Motives. They died because they chose to continue pampering their distrust of the Manna-Bread's ability to give them satisfaction and strength.

We should let this entire lesson be a warning to us today! In God's Living Bread, the LORD Jesus Christ, *is* sufficient Satisfaction and Strength to take us to spiritual Canaan's Land. If we eat in faith, we can make it all the way! Beloved, let us not make the same mistakes that almost all of the Israelites made. If we are wise, we will love the appearing of Christ's Manna-Bread because it is Heavenly Bread that God hides in the low place on the ground around Christ's Cross. Let us beseech the LORD to give us true appreciation and gratitude for the small, round, fragile nature of the Manna Bread. Let us appreciate each "Seed" of Truth we receive because within each Seed is procreating power. Let us pray that God will give us a true love for the Holiness and Purity of His White Manna, and let us seek to have our palate changed so that we can taste the Manna's sweetness and its oily, buttery flavour.

If we want to enter into spiritual Canaan's Land and be in the Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ, we need to heed the Commands that God gave Israel about gathering the Manna. If we are faithful to work for six days, gathering the portion that God ordains for us each day and, then, rest on the Sabbath, as He has commanded, we will have the strength we need when the time comes for us to go in and possess the Spiritual Land He has promised to us. In Eternity, we still will be shouting and praising God for the Manna-Bread that He provides for us as we walk through the wilderness of this old world.

