

An Omer is the Tenth Part of an Ephah

Exodus Chapter Sixteen

~ We made it through the bitter waters of Marah in our last report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire word of God; and it was the Lord Jesus Christ Himself Who made those waters sweet. We were then led quickly to Elim with all the palm trees and water springs where Israel rested and enjoyed happiness, for a change. Elim was Israel's first opportunity to relax for a moment since leaving Egypt; and we have the same rest available to us today because we have the direct leading, protection and provision of the Hand of God upon us, His people. The Lord has led each of us to where we are currently at.

Well, God is leading Israel back out into the wilderness of Sin, and we now have recorded the account of the manna and the quail. Of course, we know that Christ is the bread of life; but the children of Israel haven't been wandering around the desert for very long yet – maybe a month and a half, or so – and now they are murmuring again. The Red Sea experience was great, and they sang songs to Moses; but then they got thirsty and had the bitter experience at Marah. So, God moved them on to that lovely Elim and, of course, now they're hungry! It didn't take long for them to start complaining - again....

1 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.

2 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:

3 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.

~ Elim couldn't have even been out of sight when they started complaining again. Most Christians today become deterred at the first sign of hardship or trouble - and they start complaining. They would rather stay in Egypt and die in slavery to idolatry than to make an informed decision to trust Christ and follow Him at all cost. I have to wonder if the people who said they would rather have died in Egypt really meant it. They had wanted so desperately to be delivered out of Egyptian slavery and out of the bondage of idolatry and sin. Only when the reality of a formidable wilderness sets in as they run short of water and food do they begin to complain. Again, they were singing the song of deliverance just one chapter ago. It's always a struggle not to look back at those old flesh pots in Egypt so fondly when you have nothing. I know that as well as anyone does - by experience, friends...

4 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.

5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.

6 And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt:

7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we that ye murmur against us?

~ Moses and Aaron didn't know what to do except to intreat the Lord for the people's murmurings. It is important to note that every single time the children of Israel murmur against the Lord, He still hears them and helps them. Do you have a complaint, my Christian friend? Have you brought it before the Lord in prayer? Have you asked that His will be done in the matter? How many Christians do you know that all they do is complain and find fault with others? These are the types of murmurings that have decimated all credibility of the church in the world today. I don't think God

likes the complaining when it's done in a whisper like this. If you have to murmur and complain and find fault with those in the church, then get out! Go somewhere else with your problems - but understand that you'll have those same problems anywhere you go! Is the preacher not friendly enough? Does he point out Scriptural errors and doctrinal misinterpretations you may be holding? The problem is that the man who represents God and teaches the Word of God correctly is going to have antagonistic detractors. Interestingly, those murmurings are always against God – not the man who is handling the Word of God. Teachers murmur sometimes, too. We had all better be cognizant and purposed that we're not murmuring against God....

8 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.

9 And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings.

10 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.

11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

12 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.

13 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.

~ Quail and Manna was some mighty fine cuisine for the children of Israel at the time in which we are studying. Manna could be prepared in many different ways. Manna was their sustenance in the wilderness for forty

years. Of course, they were to gather just enough food for each day. Manna is to be gathered every morning by each man individually. This speaks of Christ as the bread of life. Jesus says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world" - Gospel of John. This is not that which speaks of feeding on daily, but it speaks of life-giving sustenance for us. The Book of Numbers says "... their feet did not swell." The oriental nations have a problem with Beriberi resulting from a single food group diet. Well, the Israelite had a single food group diet at this time, but they didn't have any health problems. Manna was adequate to meet all of their needs....

14 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.

15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

16 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.

17 And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.

18 And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.

19 And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.

20 Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

21 And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

22 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.

23 And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.

24 And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.

25 And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a Sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field.

~ Notice the Sabbath Day is part of Gods commandment; even before we have the law given to Moses! Today, we are to rest eternally in the Lord Jesus Christ! The manna they were given was a wonderful food that contained all of the necessary vitamins. I think it could have been prepared to taste like anything you wanted it to taste like; but it was manna that initiated the mixed multitude's complaints. Turn over to the Book of Numbers chapter eleven and read, "... 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. And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium. 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: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil. And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it." Notice that everything the mixed multitude missed from Egypt had no nutritional value at all - besides the fish, of course - all of

the other items they listed were condiments that either grew on the ground or under the ground. Onions and garlic don't make you very attractive, friends; and they weren't very appealing people to begin with. The mixed multitude simply wanted their lusts fulfilled. Interestingly, the manna was everything they needed, both physically and spiritually speaking....

26 Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, in it there shall be none.

27 And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.

28 And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?

29 See, for that the LORD hath given you the Sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.

30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

31 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.

~ The Lord Jesus Christ is the Manna that came down to the world to give life to and feed those who will believe. The age-old question remains: who do men say Jesus is? This is the way God gave life to these people at this time on the wilderness march. Providing manna is how God fed them; but they, obviously, became tired of it and remembered all of the mundane ingredients in Egypt. This is the same story of some today - even some who have been genuinely converted. They have been saved but they still desire a quick trip back to Egypt. They, at least, have to have some melons, right? That's not too much to ask; is it? Well, we cannot continue to live on the condiments of Egypt and be serviceable to the Lord God, friends! If you want to live for God and have peace in your heart with Him, then you will

have to have obedience in your life. There will have to be a break with Egypt, and you'll have to accept God's diet: the true Manna that came down from Heaven – the Lord Jesus Christ....

32 And Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt.

33 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.

34 As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

35 And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

36 Now an omer is the tenth part of an ephah.

~ A pot of Manna will be one of three things ordered by God to be contained in the Ark of the Covenant. There was Aaron's rod that budded, the tablets with the law written on them and the pot of Manna. Christ has provided a spiritual food for our Spiritual Safari. The law speaks of His life; the Manna speaks of His death and the rod that budded speaks of the resurrection of the Son of God – the Lord Jesus Christ! Above all of this will be the Mercy Seat where the blood was sprinkled. Christ alone is able to meet the demands of God in a sacrifice. The Blood has been shed and God is now able to extend His mercy according to His promises to sinful man.

When we get into the land with Israel, we will find the Manna ceases and they begin to have the old corn of the land as the staple in their diet. Of course, they will complain about the old corn when we get to that point with them. They are going to look back and find out Manna was, actually, pretty exciting - but old corn – well, not so much! Many people today want to live on their experience of being saved or converted. They've been to the

cross and they just keep hammering out their salvation experience. Their testimony contains the personal pronouns "I" or "me" more than any other word. They'll talk about themselves all day long and they're so busy running their mouths that they never get to eat any old corn. They don't like Bible study because, well, Bible study isn't about them in a flattering way - it's just old corn. If you haven't come to Christ in your life, then I suggest you taste of the Bread of Life today and you will see that He is good. As we march on through the wilderness, we are going to come to the rock that was smitten – we'll get to that in our next report. Remember, all of these things happened to them as examples unto us upon whom the end of the ages has come ~

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