

=THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL=

Lesson 4

Manna, Water, and Quail

AIM: to show my pupils that God cares for His own day by day.

POINT OF CONTACT: You could take a vitamin pill, one of those little one-a-day vitamins, to the class and call the lesson, "The First One-a-Day Vitamin Tablet." Maybe it would help get the attention of the children. Ask them how many take vitamins, what kind they take, when they take them, etc.

I. THE MANNA. See Exodus 16:14, 15. God provides for His children.

1. God provided for them miraculously with manna from Heaven while they were on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. This manna was given to them for forty years while they were in the wilderness as God protected them. (Give your own testimony as to a time when God miraculously provided for you and/or ask the pupils to give a testimony of God's definite provision.)
2. God provides all we need, Exodus 16:16-18. You will notice some ate more than others, but God gave each one all that he needed for the day. What if you could take out an insurance policy guaranteeing you all your provisions and needs for life? Wouldn't that be wonderful? In the will of God, this is exactly what we have. Would God we had enough sense to see it!
3. The manna had to be eaten immediately, Exodus 16:19, 20. They could not save the food; they had to eat it immediately. The memory of physical food will not satisfy the appetite. Every day of the year just remember the good meal you had last Thanksgiving and see how hungry you get. Neither can memories of great spiritual experiences, Bible reading, and walking with God suffice for today. They must be eaten now.
4. It was eaten in the morning, Exodus 16:21. Each of us in the morning hours should spend some time with God. Also, only one day's supply was given. If any Jew took two days' supply to keep from having to gather some the next morning, it would stink by the next day.
5. The day before the Sabbath they could get two days' supply. In other words, God gives extra grace when needed. God does not give dying grace while we are alive or suffering grace while we are well, but God meets every need as the need arises.
6. The manna pictured salvation:
  - 1) It was provided by God.
  - 2) It came from Heaven.
  - 3) It went to the ground, a picture of Jesus' death.
  - 4) It was no good on the ground—a dead Christ cannot save.
  - 5) It was taken up from the ground in order to be a blessing—a picture of the resurrection.
  - 6) It was taken by faith.
  - 7) It had the taste of fresh oil, Numbers 11:8. This symbolizes the Holy Spirit that comes to indwell us at salvation.

II. THE WATER. Not only did God provide the manna from Heaven for the Jews, but He also provided the water for them. This is found in Exodus 17:6. Let us notice a few brief things about the water.

1. Jesus is the Rock, I Corinthians 10:4.
2. The smiting of the rock is a picture of Calvary.
3. The rock was smitten only once to get the water. From then on, they only spoke to the rock to get the water. Jesus was smitten only once for us. After salvation we only speak to Him for our needs. Moses got angry one time and smote the rock again. It was such a horrible sin that God forbade him to enter into the Promised Land.
4. Out of the rock came water. This is a picture of Jesus, the living water.
5. The water was free. Salvation also is free. See John 4:10.

III. THE QUAIL. God provided water; then He provided manna for the morning and quail for the evening. Read Exodus 16:12, 13. In the quail, God satisfied His people once again by the death of an animal, a picture of Calvary and Jesus giving us salvation through His death. The quail is an animal of the air—a picture of Jesus coming from Heaven to die for us.

CONCLUSION: God provides for His own! He offered the Jews a pillar of cloud to lead them by day and a pillar of fire to lead them by night. He gave them manna for breakfast and meat for supper. He gave them water from the rock. When they were in the wilderness, He kept their shoes from wearing out for forty years. Thank God, He provides for His own!