

The Sanctuary – MHP, The Golden Pot of Manna & The Shekinah Glory

Hidden Manna –All My Food is Christ's (Ex.16)

The story of how God miraculously supplied the physical needs of the Israelites has many spiritual lessons for those of us living at the end of time.

The Golden Pot of Manna hidden in the Ark, as a sample was put there as a reminder of God's preservation of His people for two reasons:

1. _____.
2. _____

_____.

Manna From Heaven (Ex.16:4,5,14-36)

Because of the murmurings of the children of Israel, many were not committed to the Lord, or learned to trust His plans, but remained in unbelief. Yet, their heavenly Father refused to censure them, but

"when all means of sustenance failed, God sent His people manna from heaven; and a sufficient and constant supply was given. This provision was to teach them that while they trusted in God and walked in His ways He would not forsake them" (DA 121).

God's gift to His famishing people was _____. Our part is _____. The song of the manna is _____. (John 6:32,33). No eye had ever seen this celestial food. The Israelites "wist not what it was." They said, "Manna, what is it?" (Ex.16:15) Heaven's most precious Gift is still man's profoundest mystery. The true Manna came to earth as Bethlehem's Babe. He is forever imprisoned in a human body. And yet mystified men and women continue to ask, "_____, What is ___? (1Tim.3:16)

"Sustained by the _____ of _____ (Ps.78:24) having God's promise, they were secure from want. For 40 years "man did eat _____ (vs.25). He that _____ shall neither _____ nor _____. (Ps.121:4)

Manna Touched the Earth

Here we see the fulfillment of the Son of Man

- Manna reached down to touch the face of the bare earth (Ex 16:14). Its gospel voice asks, *Fulfilled: Could Jesus have descended any lower? The Prince of heaven and earth stooped low to enter the manger, His majesty measured by His meekness, His splendor by His shame, and His fullness by His self-emptying love.*

Application: The shortest hand may reach it! Just like the Israelites who knelt to gather a day's supply, or trampled Heaven's bounty under foot, so we too are to choose. At each dawning, we either gather our day's supply of Christ our Manna, or indifferently go on our ways.

The manna sang
yet another stanza

- Manna's daily companion was the gentle dew (Ex 16:13, 14; Num 11:9). Dew is a symbol of the nurturing, life-giving ministry of the _____ (Hos 14:5; DA 386). This bridal veil of loveliness reminded Israel of heaven's gentle kindness, as like hoar frost at winter's daybreak, it sparkled on the sand in a thousand flashing rainbows. *{What a picture!}* All during Israel's pilgrimage, "the manna continued to fall, and they were fed by a divine hand morning and evening" (3T 340). In this way God taught His people to gather their daily provisions and reminded them that only those who refused Heaven's Gift went hungry.

Sundry Lessons from God's Golden Pot of Manna

- Manna melted with the rising sun, and was then gone forever (Ex.16:21)
Application: We, too, must gather the heavenly Fare our first task.
- Manna speaks to youthful hearts:
Application: Give God your freshest strength in the morning of your years
(Prov.8:17; Ecc.12:1)
- Manna was unobtrusive, it seemed but a tiny white seed of coriander (Ex 16:31; Num 11:7, 8) upon the sand (Ex 16:14), and so the careless passed it by, as they later did the Carpenter of Nazareth.
Application: May we not despise and reject the "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:12) of the Spirit, which all too easily can be ignored by the undiscerning or even the callous.
- Manna was white, {looked like bdellium} and its pearly purity covered everything on which it nightly fell (Ex 16:14). This innocence whispered of its home beyond the clouds, and invited every Israelite to fix his imagination on Christ.
Application: Let us seek to be covered by His righteousness daily, with confessions of praise and gratitude of forsaken (Isa 1:18; Rev 19:8).
- Manna tasted "like wafers made with honey" (Ex 16:31), nourishing as well as rich with enjoyment. This points to our Father's generous kindness.
Application: We are to 'taste and see that the Lord is good'. The Bread of heaven sustains us throughout a lifetime of study and continues to ravish the mind of the saint.

Q. What difference can we note between the "shew-bread" in the Holy Place and the manna in the Ark? In the most holy place of the Sanctuary a daily ration of manna for one person was stored in a **casket of gold** (Ex 16:32-34; Heb 9:4). The "shew"-bread might be seen by all who entered the holy place, but Christ named this "hidden" manna (Rev 2:17). Concealed by the glory behind the innermost tapestry, it might be **contemplated** only by the **eye of faith**.

[It would be well to read and contemplate Chapter 26 in Patriarchs and Prophets, pp 294.3-297.2]

Manna Teaches Lessons of Sabbath Keeping

Week by week manna proclaimed to Israel: Remember to keep the sabbath! For forty years it appeared on each week day, but on the day of preparation it came in double supply (Ex 16:22-29). The sixth day's manna, unlike that of other days, remained fresh when stored against the sabbath's needs. **Listen to its Friday message: Faithful one, prepare your food in time for the holy hours.** And then its sabbath sweetness will sing of the Saviour's preserving grace and love.

Some Israelites refused to heed the Lord's regulations, and went out to gather manna on the sabbath. Since obedience to the King's precise command is the measure of His subjects' loyalty, the rebellion in the hearts of these malcontents was soon unmasked. So in order to break the bonds

forged by over-concern for material things, week by week Jehovah taught His people to trust Him implicitly. And His promises never failed, for His six days' provision sustained the obedient ones for seven days' needs.

Another weekly lesson we learn from the manna--a three verse chorus.

On the day of preparation it: 1) *reminded all to gather a double supply for the coming sabbath*
2) *it urged each family to prepare food sufficient for the sacred hours;*
and, because it remained fresh for God's holy day
3) *trained His loyal people to expect Him to exercise His keeping power, and bestow His special blessing to them particularly on the sabbath.* This three-fold ministry is now the Spirit's constant task.

But even heavenly manna was loathed by some. What little is often valued less. God's choicest gift is Christ. He came to gather mankind back to God, yet too often He is rejected, His offers of mercy spurned. But although He continues to pour out His Spirit freely to make our lives more spiritual, we frequently despise His ministry.

And so, the lessons of the Golden Pot of Manna in the Ark are beneficial for us today.

ADDENDUM

Manna Modifies Disposition

Manna was provided to help the Israelites control their dispositions. "If the Israelites had been given the diet to which they had been accustomed while in Egypt, they would have exhibited the unmanageable spirit that the world is exhibiting today. In the diet of men and women in this age there are included many things that the Lord would not have permitted the children of Israel to eat. The human family as it is today is an illustration of what the children of Israel would have been if God had allowed them to eat the food and follow the habits and customs of the Egyptians" (1BC 1102).

In commenting on Num 11:4, Ellen White observed: "The state of the mind has largely to do with the health of the body, and especially with the health of the digestive organs. As a general thing, the Lord did not provide His people with flesh meat in the desert, because He knew that the use of this diet would create disease and insubordination. In order to modify the disposition and bring the higher powers of the mind into active exercise, He removed from them the flesh of dead animals. He gave them angels' food, manna from heaven" (1BC 1112-1113).

Manna was especially disgusting to many of the "mixt multitude" (Num 11:4; 21:4, 5). A Hebrew sage reminds us of an ancient tradition by this question: "And did not the manna itself take in their mouths all the savors that their hearts could wish? Indeed yes, but it did not take the savors of forbidden meats, and it was the savors of forbidden meats that, in spite of the Torah, they desired to eat." The dish which had the flavor of "wafers made with honey" (Ex 16:31) seemed bitter to apostate palates. Although it had "the taste of fresh oil" (Num 11:8) they complained. Like coriander seed it added spice, but this they did not appreciate. For those who longed for Egypt's flesh pots, even "the corn of heaven" was despised fare! Our prayers should be, Spirit divine, revive our appetites and train our taste for the true Manna.

"The education of the Israelites included all their habits of life. Everything that concerned their well-being was the subject of divine solicitude, and came within the province of divine law. Even in providing their food, God sought their highest good. The manna with which He fed them in the wilderness was of a nature to promote physical, mental, and moral strength. Though so many of them rebelled against the restriction of their diet, and longed to return to the days when, they said, 'We sat by the flesh-pots, and when we did eat bread to the full' (Ex 16:3), yet the wisdom of God's choice for them was vindicated in the manner they could not gainsay. Notwithstanding the hardships of their wilderness life, there was not a feeble one in all their tribes" (Ps 105:37; Ed 38).

Manna continued to provide for the needs of God's pilgrim people until they reached their goal (Josh 5:12). And then it ceased only because they were able to obtain the corn of the Promised Land. Jesus guarantees that, through the Spirit, He will constantly walk with His disciples along life's twisting paths and supply all their needs, "even to the end of the world" (Matt 28:20). Our Father's sustaining promise is: Your "bread shall be given" you and your "waters shall be sure" (Isa 33:16). Our Saviour's assurance should be our constant hope, "To him that overcometh I will grant to eat of the hidden manna" (Rev 2:17). Ellen White saw that on that day we shall be seated at "a table of pure silver; it was many miles in length, yet our eyes could extend over it. I saw the fruit of the tree of life, the manna, almonds, figs, pomegranates, grapes, and many other kinds of fruit. I asked Jesus to let me eat of the fruit. He said, 'Not now. Those who eat of the fruit of this land, go back to earth no more. But in a little while, if faithful, you shall both eat of the fruit of the tree of life, and drink of the water of the fountain' " (EW 19, 20).

Our threefold prayer for the divine Manna should be: Lord Jesus, ever more give us this Bread. Come, divine Spirit, satisfy our longing souls. And, with Thy richest gifts, dear Father, ravish our yearning hearts.

The Shekinah - *All my Glory is Christ's*

The word Shekinah is derived from the Hebrew root shakan which means to dwell in a tent. Though the word Shekinah is not found in the Bible, the Hebrew root word from which it sprang often is.

Passages in the N.T. and book of Revelation which mention 'radiance' and in which the original Greek text reads *doxa* (doxology) refer to the Shekinah. See Luke 2:9 "the glory of the Lord" (*doxa kuriou*). {cf. 2 Peter 1:17; Eph. 1:6; 2 Cor 4:6}

In John 1:14 & Rev.21:3, the words *Skenoun and Skene*, expressly imply 'the Shekinah'. The idea that God dwells in man and that man is His temple. {eg. Col. 2:9; 2 Cor.6:16; John 14:23}

The Wings of the Shekinah

The burning bush symbolized the incarnation.

- It reveals eternal light stooping low to dwell in frail humanity.
- It anticipates the Kenosis (Christ's self-emptying love Phil 2:5-9)

The Talmud makes this deep and profound remark –

"Over every man in whom is haughtiness of spirit the Shekinah laments." (*Sotah 5a*)

The Shekinah is a manifestation of God's modesty and was displayed to the universe by the Nazarene walking along the dung-strewn roads of Palestine, without nest or lair for His head at day's end.

Pillar of Cloud by Day - Ex.13:18-22: 14:24 _____

Pillar of Fire by Night – Ex.14:19; Numb.9:21 _____

The Shekinah also protected Israel while they remained true to Him.

(Isa.4:4,5; 49:10, Ps.121:6)

But it sent out lightening strokes of Judgment from the Sanctuary against obdurate rebels

(Lev.10:2,6; Numb 16:35)

GC 37 } What was a light and a protection to the righteous was a consuming fire to the wicked.
PP 339 }

Light is manifest to reveal the hearts of all (Luke 2:35; 1 Cor.4:5 >> revealing the hidden things of darkness "as well as destroy sin and sinners." (DA 107; 2 Thes.2:8)

The Shekinah Seen in Jesus

In Desire of Ages we have this beautiful statement:

"In these words is announced the fulfillment of the purpose hidden from eternal ages. Christ was about to visit our world and become incarnate... Had He appeared with the glory that was His with the Father before the world was, we could not have endured the light of His presence. That we might behold it and not be destroyed, the manifestation of His glory was shrouded. His divinity was veiled with humanity,--the invisible glory in the visible human form." (p.23)

That cloudy pillar revealed His will and imparted His grace to Israel

In Deut. 33:2 we have the mention of three mountains:

1. Mt. Sinai - _____
2. Mt. Seir - _____
3. Mt. Paran - _____

It was in these areas that **the Shekinah** concealed itself to come close to His people, disclosing the **blinding light** of His truth and from His right hand went a **fiery law** for them as the Judge of all flesh.

The whole purpose
of God condescending

God's glory was subdued, His majesty veiled that
the weak vision of finite man might behold it.

"The vision (Isa 6:1-7) given to Isaiah represents the condition of God's people in the last days. They are privileged to see by faith the work that is going forward in the heavenly Sanctuary (Rev 11:19). As they look by faith into the holy of holies and see the work of Christ in the heavenly Sanctuary, they perceive that they are a people of unclean lips" (RH 22 Dec 1896).

Shekinah is the Equivalent of Glory

The term shekinah is often used to describe God's glory (*Kabod*, Hebrew). As we have noticed,

"Jesus Himself was the Lord of the Temple. When He should leave it, its glory would depart {ichabod} that glory once visible in the holy of holies over the mercy seat. . . . This was the Shekinah, the visible pavilion of Jehovah. It was this glory that was revealed to Isaiah" (4BC 1139).

"Isaiah was permitted in vision to look into the holy place, and into the holy of holies in the heavenly Sanctuary. . . . Cherubim [also known as seraphim] were on either side of the mercy-seat, as guards round the great king, and they glowed with the glory that enshrouded them from the presence of God. . . . These holy beings sang. . . . The contrast between the feeble praise which he had been accustomed to bestow upon the Creator and the fervid praises of the seraphim astonished and humiliated the prophet. . . . 'The whole earth is full of His glory,' the glory, the infinite power and the unsurpassed majesty of the Lord" (RH 16 Oct 1888).

Israel is to Reveal God's Character (Glory)

The special place of residence of the Shekinah was between the cherubim in the most holy place of the Sanctuary (Ex 25:22; cf. Lev 16:2). On the one day of the year appointed for ministry in the most holy place, the high priest with trembling entered God's presence, while clouds of incense veiled the glory from his sight. Throughout the courts of the Temple every sound was hushed. No priests ministered at the altars. The hosts of worshipers, bowed in silent awe, sent up their petitions for God's mercy. 'These things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come' (1 Cor 10:11, ARV)" (8T 294-295).

Let's Close with John 17. Note the first five verses—What is that glory Christ had with the Father before the world was? _____.

Note also vss: 10, 21-23, 24, 26