

Deuteronomy 8:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

Manna's purpose extended beyond physical nourishment: 'that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end.' The Hebrew *anah* (humble) means to afflict or humble through testing. God used limitation and dependence to teach humility. *Nassah* (prove/test) means to test quality or character. The wilderness was God's classroom, training Israel in dependence. The ultimate purpose—'to do thee good at thy latter end'—shows suffering's pedagogical purpose. Present hardship produces future benefit. This is the principle of Hebrews 12:11: 'No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous... nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness.' God's discipline is purposeful, not punitive.

Historical Context

Manna fell daily for 40 years (Exodus 16), teaching dependence on God's daily provision. It couldn't be stored (except Sabbath's double portion), preventing hoarding and requiring daily faith. This prepared Israel for life in Canaan where harvest cycles required annual faith in God's provision. The generation that entered Canaan had eaten manna their entire lives—they knew no other provision system. Jesus applied manna typologically to Himself: 'I am the bread of life' (John 6:35), the true provision from heaven. The Lord's Prayer ('give us this day our daily bread') echoes manna's daily dependence.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How has God used limitation or hardship in your life to teach humility and dependence?
2. What 'testing' are you currently experiencing that might be God's preparation for future blessing?
3. How does understanding suffering's purpose ('to do thee good at thy latter end') change your response to trials?

Interlinear Text

הַמֵּאֲכָל לָךְ

Who fed

H398

מִן

with manna

H4478

בְּמִדְבַּר

thee in the wilderness

H4057

לֹא אָשָׁךְ

H834

לֹא

H3808

יָדַע וְ

knew

H3045

אֲבֹתַי יְיָ

which thy fathers

H1

לִמָּעַן

H4616

עֲנִתְךָ

not that he might humble

H6031

וְלִמָּעַן

H4616

נִסֶּה לְךָ

thee and that he might prove

H5254

לַעֲשׂוֹת לְךָ

thee to do thee good

H3190

בְּאַחֲרֵיתָךְ:

at thy latter end

H319

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 8:3 (Parallel theme): 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.

Exodus 16:15 (Parallel theme): 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.

James 1:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1 Peter 1:7 (Parallel theme): That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Romans 8:28 (Good): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

2 Corinthians 4:17 (Parallel theme): For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;