

Exodus 16:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—The manna's appearance after dew evaporation suggests supernatural origin. The Hebrew description 'small round thing' (סֶפֶסֶף קָטָן, daq m'chuspas) indicates fine, flake-like substance resembling frost. The 'face of the wilderness' (פְּנֵי-הַמִּדְבָּר) emphasizes the barren ground that now bears bread—God provides where nothing naturally grows. This bread 'from heaven' (v.4) prefigures Christ who declares 'I am the bread that came down from heaven' (John 6:41). Like morning dew, manna appears new each day, teaching that yesterday's provision doesn't suffice for today—we need fresh dependence daily.

Historical Context

Various theories attempt natural explanation (insect secretions, etc.), but the biblical text emphasizes supernatural daily provision, Sabbath cessation, and 40-year duration that defy natural explanation.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does daily manna combat the temptation to rely on yesterday's spiritual experiences?
2. What does bread appearing on barren ground teach about God creating provision where none exists?

Interlinear Text

וַתֵּלַךְ	שָׁכַבְתָּ	הִטָּל	וְהָיָה	עַל	פְּנֵי
was gone up	that lay	And when the dew			behold upon the face
H5927	H7902	H2919	H2009	H5921	H6440
הַמִּדְבָּר	יָד קָטָן	מְחֻסָּף סָבִיב	יָד קָטָן	כַּפֹּל רָר	עַל
of the wilderness	as small	round thing	as small	as the hoar frost	
H4057	H1851	H2636	H1851	H3713	H5921
הָאָרֶץ:					
on the ground					
H776					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:24 (Parallel theme): And had rained down manna upon them to eat, and had given them of the corn of heaven.

Psalms 105:40 (Parallel theme): The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

Nehemiah 9:15 (Parallel theme): And gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promisedst them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hadst sworn to give them.

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.

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