

Exodus 16:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over; and he that gathered little had no lack—The Hebrew **תִּמְ** (madad, 'to measure') reveals the miracle: regardless of effort, each household had exactly what they needed. This supernatural equalization demonstrates that God's gifts aren't earned by superior gathering but apportioned by sovereign grace. Paul cites this verse in 2 Corinthians 8:15 as the pattern for Christian generosity—abundance should supply others' lack. The strong naturally gather more, but manna's miraculous adjustment prevents both pride in abundance and shame in insufficiency. This prefigures justification where all receive identical righteousness regardless of their spiritual 'gathering' capacity.

Historical Context

This daily miracle continued for 40 years, constantly teaching that human effort doesn't secure divine provision—God equalizes distribution by grace.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this equalization combat comparing spiritual 'productivity' between believers?
2. What does identical sufficiency regardless of gathering teach about grace versus merit?

Interlinear Text

וַיְמַתֵּן	וְלֹא	בָּעֵד	מֵרָא	בְּעֵדִים	בְּעֵדִים
And when they did mete	it with an omer	H3808	had nothing over	H5736	
H4058	H6016		H2637		
הַמְרַב הָ	וּבְמִמְמַעַן	לֹא	הַחֲסִיס יְרֵל	אִישׁ	אִישׁ
he that gathered much	and he that gathered little	H3808	had no lack	every man	H376
H7235	H4591		H2637		
לְפִי	אָכֵל זֶ	לְקָטָן	יְרֵל	הַחֲסִיס	אִישׁ
according	to his eating	H3950	they gathered	H6310	H400

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