

Exodus 16:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

Analysis

Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank—Disobedience brings immediate consequences: worms (תולע, tola') and stench (באשׁ, ba'ash). The rotting manna illustrates that God's gifts cannot be preserved by human effort contrary to His command—what is meant for today becomes corruption tomorrow when hoarded in unbelief. The 'some of them' (אנשִׁים, anashim) indicates not universal rebellion but sufficient disobedience to require Moses' anger. This failed hoarding teaches that security comes from God's faithfulness, not accumulated resources. Rotten manna becomes a daily object lesson: trust tested proves trust's absence. The stench makes disobedience public, showing that private unbelief has communal consequences.

Historical Context

The rotting manna served as immediate public evidence of disobedience, reinforcing the daily trust God required. No one could secretly hoard without exposed corruption.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'rotting manna' in your life reveals attempts to secure tomorrow through disobedient means?
2. How does the stench of hoarded manna picture how private disobedience becomes public shame?

Interlinear Text

אֲלֹא שְׁמַע וְמֹשֶׁה רְוִית רְאֵשׁ יְמֵי הַלְּאָלָה
H3808 Notwithstanding they hearkened H413 and Moses H4872 of them left H3498 but some H582

וְקַרְבָּן	בְּקַרְבָּן	וְקַרְבָּן	וְקַרְבָּן	וְקַרְבָּן	וְקַרְבָּן
H4480	H5704	of it until the morning	and it bred	worms	and stank
		H1242	H7311	H9438	H887

מֹשֶׁה: אָלָה מִתְקַנֵּץ וְ
and Moses: God who made
H5921 H4872

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