

Exodus 16:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

Analysis

And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey —The official naming as 'Manna' (מן, man, 'What is it?') permanently memorializes Israel's initial bewilderment. Physical descriptions—coriander seed size, white color, honey wafer taste—ground the miraculous in sensory reality. The comparison to 'honey' (דבש, d'vash) connects to the promised land 'flowing with milk and honey,' showing God provides promised-land sweetness even in wilderness. Numbers 11:7-8 adds that it could be ground, beaten, baked, or boiled, showing divine provision's versatility. This daily miracle of pleasant taste for 40 years demonstrates God's goodness—He didn't merely sustain life but gave satisfaction. Christ invites believers to 'taste and see that the Lord is good' (Ps 34:8).

Historical Context

The detailed physical description confirms historical reality while emphasizing the miraculous. No natural substance matches manna's complete profile: daily appearance, Sabbath cessation, double portions, 40-year duration.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does manna's pleasant taste reveal God's provision includes satisfaction, not mere survival?
2. What does naming the bread 'What is it?' teach about receiving God's gifts even when we don't understand them?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים לְבִתְהַרְמָה וְלִקְרָא אֶל־
the name thereof Manna H1931
the name H8034
of Israel H3478
And the house H1004
called H7121

כַּף כְּעָם וְלֹבֶן וְטַעַם וְלֹבֶן כְּפִינִים תְּ
wafers H6838
and the taste H2940
white H3836
and it was like coriander H1407
seed H2233

בְּדַבְּשָׁה:
made with honey H1706

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 16:15 (References Israel): 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.

Song of Solomon 2:3: As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

