

Exodus 16:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

Analysis

And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited—The 40 years (corresponding to 40 years' wilderness wandering for unbelief) demonstrates both judgment and mercy: they're delayed but fed. The phrase 'until they came to a land inhabited' (עַד־בָּאָם אֶל־אֶרֶץ נוֹשֶׁבֶת, ad-bo'am el-eretz noshevet) marks manna's cessation upon entering Canaan (Josh 5:12). This 40-year miracle—approximately 14,600 days of provision for 2+ million people—remains unparalleled in history. The daily dependence trained an entire generation in faith. Spiritually, believers feed on Christ throughout earthly pilgrimage 'until' we reach the promised land of glory, when faith becomes sight and manna becomes wedding feast.

Historical Context

Forty years equals an entire generation. Those who refused to enter Canaan at Kadesh-barnea died in the wilderness, but God faithfully fed even the rebellious generation until their children inherited the promise.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does 40 years of daily manna demonstrate both God's judgment (delay) and mercy (provision)?
2. What does manna ceasing at Canaan teach about earthly provisions' relationship to promised rest?

Interlinear Text

וּבְנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	אָכַל ו	אֶת	הַמָּן	אַרְבָּעִים	שָׁנָה	עַד
And the children	of Israel	did eat	H853	manna	forty	years	H5704
H1121	H3478	H398		H4478	H705	H8141	

בָּאָה מ	אֶל	אֶרֶץ	נוֹשָׁה בָּת	אֶת	הַמָּן ו	אָכַל ו	עַד
until they came	H413	of the land	inhabited	H853	manna	did eat	H5704
H935		H776	H3427		H4478	H398	

בָּאָה מ	אֶל	קִצֵּה ה	אֶרֶץ	כְּנָעַן:
until they came	H413	unto the borders	of the land	of Canaan
H935		H7097	H776	H3667

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 5:12 (References Israel): And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.