

Exodus 16:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

Analysis

Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you—God's response to murmuring is not judgment but grace. The verb מָטַר (matar, 'to rain') indicates abundance and divine initiative—bread descending as rain, not earned by labor. This anticipates Christ as the true 'bread from heaven' (John 6:32-33). The daily gathering ('a certain rate every day') institutes dependence, preventing hoarding and teaching that 'man shall not live by bread alone' (Deut 8:3). The test isn't just obedience regarding Sabbath but whether Israel will trust God's daily provision rather than anxiously securing tomorrow's needs.

Historical Context

This divine promise introduced a 40-year miracle unparalleled in history—daily bread for approximately 2 million people. Moses later explained this tested whether Israel would keep God's commandments (Deut 8:2-3).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does daily dependence on God's provision combat anxiety about tomorrow?
2. In what ways does Christ as 'bread from heaven' surpass physical manna?

Interlinear Text

לָכֶם מִמֶּטֶר יִרְמְחֶם הַנֶּגֶז יִמְשֶׁה אֶל יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר
Then said the LORD unto Moses Behold I will rain
H559 H3068 H413 H4872 H2005 H4305 H0

וְלִקְטוּ אֶתְכֶם וְיָצָא הַשֶּׁמֶת יָמִן מִן הַלֶּחֶם
bread from heaven shall go out for you and the people and gather
H3899 H4480 H8064 H3318 H5971 H3950

הִלֵּי הָאֶבֶט נֹלֶמְעַן בְּיוֹמִי וְכִיּוֹמִי בְּדִבֶּר
a certain rate every day every day that I may prove
H1697 H3117 H3117 H4616 H5254 H1980

לֹא: אִם בְּתוֹכָתִי
in my law
H518 H3808 H8451

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:3 (Parallel theme): And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

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

Exodus 15:25 (References Lord): And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

Deuteronomy 8:2 (Word): And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove

thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org