

Numbers 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth.

Analysis

God grants Israel's craving by sending quail blown in by wind from the sea, demonstrating His sovereign control over nature. Yet this gift becomes judgment—He gives them their desire but sends 'leanness into their soul' (Psalm 106:15). This illustrates the danger of insisting on our will over God's wisdom; sometimes God grants requests to reveal the poverty of our desires.

Historical Context

Quail migrate across the Mediterranean and Red Sea regions, flying low when exhausted. God timed their arrival precisely with Israel's complaint, using natural means for supernatural purposes, as He did with the plagues in Egypt.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Have you experienced God granting your request only to discover it wasn't what you truly needed?
2. How can you discern between godly desires and fleshly cravings in your prayers?

Interlinear Text

וְרֵחַ	וַיֵּצֵא	מֵאֵת	יְהוָה	וַיָּבֵא	שְׁלֵוִים
a wind	And there went forth	H853	from the LORD	and brought	quails
H7307	H5265		H3068	H1468	H7958
מִן	הַיָּם	וַיִּטּוּ	עַל	הַמִּחֲנֶה	וַיֵּצֵא
H4480	from the sea	and let them fall	H5921	by the camp	journey
	H3220	H5203		H4264	H1870
וַיְהִי	כִּי	וַיֵּצֵא	וַיְהִי	וַיֵּצֵא	
and as it were a day's	on the other side	journey	and as it were a day's		
H3117	H3541	H1870	H3117		
כִּי	סָבִיב	הַמִּחֲנֶה	וַיְהִי	וַיֵּצֵא	עַל
on the other side	round about	by the camp	and as it were two cubits		H5921
H3541	H5439	H4264	H520		
פָּנֵי	הָאָרֶץ:				
high upon the face	of the earth				
H6440	H776				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 16:13 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

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

