

Psalms 105:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

Analysis

This verse recounts God's provision of quail and manna (Exodus 16; Numbers 11:31-32). 'The people asked' shows God's response to their grumbling. The quail provided meat, while 'bread of heaven' refers to manna. The Hebrew *lechem shamayim* (לֶחֶם שָׁמַיִם) literally means 'bread from heaven,' emphasizing its miraculous origin. 'Satisfied' (*saba*, שָׂבַע) means to be filled or sated. Jesus identified Himself as the true 'bread from heaven' (John 6:31-35), the ultimate provision for spiritual hunger. The daily provision of manna taught dependence on God (one day's need at a time, except before Sabbath), prefiguring the Lord's Prayer: 'Give us this day our daily bread.'

Historical Context

Manna fell six days per week for 40 years, feeding approximately 2 million people daily—one of Scripture's greatest sustained miracles. The manna was white like coriander seed, tasted like honey wafers, and melted in the sun (Exodus 16:14-31). Israel was commanded to keep a jar of manna in the Ark of the Covenant as a memorial (Exodus 16:32-34). This daily miracle taught each generation that 'man does not live by bread alone, but by every word from the mouth of God' (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does daily dependence on God's provision cultivate faith and humility?
2. In what ways is Christ the ultimate fulfillment of the 'bread from heaven'?
3. What does God's 40-year miracle of manna teach about His faithfulness to sustain His people?

Interlinear Text

שָׂא ל	וַיֵּבֶא	שְׂלִי	וְלֵחֶם	שֶׁמַּיִם
The people asked	and he brought	quails	them with the bread	of heaven
H7592	H935	H7958	H3899	H8064
וַיִּשְׂבְּעוּ:				
and satisfied				
H7646				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 78:18 (Parallel theme): And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.