

# Manna and Quail from Heaven

In the wilderness, God miraculously provides manna each morning and quail each evening to feed the multitude of Israel, teaching them dependence on His daily provision.

Exodus 16:1-36

CHARACTERS: Moses, Aaron, Israelites

THEMES: God's provision, Daily dependence on God, Testing obedience, Complaining versus trust

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JUST ONE MONTH after their miraculous exodus from Egypt, the entire congregation of Israel gathered against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness of Sin. Their complaint was bitter: 'Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full!' Memory proved selective—they romanticized their slavery, forgetting the brutal taskmasters and murdered infants. The LORD heard their murmuring and responded not with judgment but with grace. He promised Moses, 'I will rain bread from heaven for you.' That evening, quail covered the camp, providing meat. The next morning, when the dew lifted, thin flakes like hoarfrost covered the ground. 'What is it?' the people asked—'Manna' in Hebrew. Moses explained God's instructions: gather an omer per person daily, but on the sixth day, gather double, for the seventh is the Sabbath rest. This provision became a test of obedience. Some tried to hoard manna overnight; it bred worms and stank. Some sought it on the Sabbath; they found none. For forty years, until they entered Canaan, this bread from heaven sustained Israel. The manna tasted like wafers made with honey, could be baked or boiled, and ceased only when they ate the fruit of the Promised Land. God commanded Moses to preserve an omer of manna in a golden pot before the Testimony, a memorial for future generations. This

daily bread became a profound spiritual lesson: man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Jesus later identified Himself as the true bread from heaven, the reality of which manna was merely a shadow.

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