

# Living With The Provider, Jesus The Bread Of Life

(Part 1)

**“In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test and see whether they will follow my instructions.” (Exodus 16:2-4)**

**“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming towards Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for He already had in mind what He was going to do. Philip answered Him, “Eight months wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!” Another of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass in that place, and the men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, He said to His disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.” (John 6:5-13)**

In the mid of the desert where nothing else found except the sand, were the Israelites situated. After the exodus from Egypt, God led His people into the desert of Sinai for forty years. Nothing to be eaten at that place and much more to know, the total population of Israelites was two million men, women, and children. During their time in the wilderness, the people of God grumbled many times. For them, the wilderness of the desert seemed like God was absent or unconcerned. They forgot that God provided for them with the bread from heaven that showed His eternal presence and care to His people.

When God sent the bread from heaven, **“The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.” (Exodus 16:31)** Manna is a Hebrew word, meaning “what it is?” The Israelites did not know what they got but they enjoyed the sweet taste. It was bread supernaturally provided by God and none of the natural substances was identified by the people with that which God had given them.

The above passages, from the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament and from the Gospel of John in the New Testament, look completely different but with the same spiritual essence. The fall of manna from heaven and the miracle of multiplying the bread and the fish emphasized the true nature of Jesus and showed that He is always with His people before He was born, during His life on earth, and even after His ascension to heaven.

The large crowd, like the Israelites in the desert of the Old Testament, was coming toward Jesus. God was concerned and Jesus as well had compassion on them because they were hungry, so He

wanted to provide for them. God at the time of Moses was unseen. But in the New Testament He manifested Himself, Jesus is Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” He is Jesus, the person of God who came from heaven to save us. God is in heaven but with Jesus He is with us, and with Him we are not in the wilderness.

The Israelites when they were hungry, they received the manna bread that God sent from heaven. The large crowd in the New Testament when they were hungry they found Jesus who declared, **“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 5:35)**

When Jesus came down from heaven, the Jews did not know who He is and, like for the manna, they questioned among themselves who really Jesus is: **“Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can He say, I came down from heaven?” (John 6:42).** Jesus and the manna both came down from heaven and both were graces from God, but were not recognized by the people.

The manna is the old bread in the time of Moses and Jesus is the new bread for this present age, and both are with similarities and differences. The manna that God gave to the Israelites in the desert was to satisfy their hunger, the type of food that sustained the physical body for a while. Jesus said, **“Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died.” (John 6:49)** But Jesus is the bread of life which a man eats and not die, as He also said, **“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” (John 6:51)**

The physical hunger that is satisfied by ordinary bread was the reason that made the same crowd to follow Jesus after the multiplication of bread. Jesus told them, **“I tell you the truth; you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.” (John 6:26)** They only came to Him for the momentary satisfaction and not looking for the food that endures and nourishes eternal life to those who would take it. Jesus is rather pleased with the people who will show hunger for Him, the bread of life.

***My Dear and Beloved:*** The manna as we read tasted like wafers made with honey, and imagine the sweet taste to those who ate it. The Israelites ate the manna for forty years, it was sweet to them, it came down from heaven, made and given by God. Today, we want to assure you the same sweet taste that will not be only in your mouth but in your heart when you accept Jesus Christ. The life around you with Jesus will be sweet. And after you tasted His goodness, everyday you will go to collect from Him and to the rest of your life. If you are in the desert or wilderness call unto Jesus and fill your heart with joy and contentment. He is the living bread, He is God’s grace and He is God’s best. God bless you.

***My Prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose again to give me eternal life. Lord I commit my life and my cause into your hand. Today I receive Jesus as Saviour and Lord over my life. Guide me Lord and help me and support me to go on and do your will, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*