



God Provides for His Grumbling People

Exodus 16:1 – 36

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A month out of Egypt they grumble

- **Exodus 16:1, 2**

Then they set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departure from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.



Revisionist history!

- **Exodus 16:3**

The sons of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the LORD's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat, when we ate bread to the full; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

 Provision and testing

■ **Exodus 16:4, 5**

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.”

 God is known by His mighty acts

■ **Exodus 16:6, 7**

So Moses and Aaron said to all the sons of Israel, “At evening you will know that the Lord has brought you out of the land of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, for He hears your grumblings against the LORD; and what are we, that you grumble against us?”

 Their grumbling is against Yahweh

■ **Exodus 16:8**

Moses said, “This will happen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and bread to the full in the morning; for the LORD hears your grumblings which you grumble against Him. And what are we? Your grumblings are not against us but against the LORD.”

 A theophany in the wilderness

■ **Exodus 16:9, 10**

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your grumbings.’” It came about as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the sons of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

 Provision in the wilderness reveals Yahweh’s identity and nature

■ **Exodus 16:11, 12**

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, “I have heard the grumbings of the sons of Israel; speak to them, saying, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

 God provides meat and “bread”

■ **Exodus 16:13 - 15**

So it came about at evening that the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground. When the sons of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.”

 The command to gather

■ **Exodus 16:16, 17**

“This is what the LORD has commanded, ‘Gather of it every man as much as he should eat; you shall take an omer apiece according to the number of persons each of you has in his tent.’” The sons of Israel did so, and some gathered much and some little.

 God fully provided for all

■ **Exodus 16:18**

When they measured it with an omer, he who had gathered much had no excess, and he who had gathered little had no lack; every man gathered as much as he should eat.

 Theme: “they did not listen”

■ **Exodus 16:19 - 21**

Moses said to them, “Let no man leave any of it until morning.” But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them. They gathered it morning by morning, every man as much as he should eat; but when the sun grew hot, it would melt.

 Sabbath provision

- **Exodus 16:22, 23**

Now on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, then he said to them, "This is what the LORD meant: Tomorrow is a sabbath observance, a holy sabbath to the LORD. Bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning."

 Daily miracles and a special miracle for Sabbath

- **Exodus 16:24 - 26**

So they put it aside until morning, as Moses had ordered, and it did not become foul nor was there any worm in it. Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the sabbath, there will be none."

 Some of them did not listen

- **Exodus 16:27 - 30**

It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions? See, the LORD has given you the sabbath; therefore He gives you bread for two days on the sixth day. Remain every man in his place; let no man go out of his place on the seventh day." So the people rested on the seventh day.

“Manna” is from “what is it”

- **Exodus 16:31, 32**

The house of Israel named it manna, and it was like coriander seed, white, and its taste was like wafers with honey. Then Moses said, “This is what the LORD has commanded, ‘Let an omerful of it be kept throughout your generations, that they may see the bread that I fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you out of the land of Egypt.’”

A reminder of the Lord's provision

- **Exodus 16:33 - 35**

Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar and put an omerful of manna in it, and place it before the Lord to be kept throughout your generations.” As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the Testimony, to be kept. The sons of Israel ate the manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

Applications and Implications

- 1) We should live by God's word rather than grumble about bread.
- 2) God has provided access to the throne of grace where we ask without grumbling
- 3) God has provided the true bread from heaven whereby we can eat and not die

1) We should live by God's word rather than grumble about bread.

■ **Deuteronomy 8:3**

He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord.

1) We should live by God's word rather than grumble about bread.

■ **2Peter 1:4**

For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

2) God has provided access to the throne of grace where we ask without grumbling

■ **Hebrews 4:15, 16**

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

 2) God has provided access to the throne of grace where we ask without grumbling

■ **Luke 11:3**
Give us each day our daily bread.

 2) God has provided access to the throne of grace where we ask without grumbling

■ **1Peter 5:6, 7**
Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

 3) God has provided the true bread from heaven whereby we can eat and not die

■ **John 6:31, 32**
“Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.’” Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven.”

 3) God has provided the true bread from heaven whereby we can eat and not die

■ **John 6:33, 34**

“For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.” Then they said to Him, “Lord, always give us this bread.”

 3) God has provided the true bread from heaven whereby we can eat and not die

■ **John 6:35, 41**

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.” . . . 41 Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, “I am the bread that came down out of heaven.”


