

# **Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**

## **Bible Study Notes**

**9-2-20**

### **Exodus 16**

#### **God Provides Manna - Verses 1-7**

<sup>1</sup>The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. <sup>3</sup>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." <sup>4</sup>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 them and see whether they will follow my instructions. <sup>5</sup>On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." <sup>6</sup>So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, <sup>7</sup>and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?"

**16:1** The Desert of Sin was a vast and hostile environment of sand and stone. Its barren surroundings provided the perfect place for God to test and shape the character of his people.

**16:2-3** It happened again. As the Israelites encountered danger, shortages, and inconvenience, they complained bitterly and longed to be back in Egypt. But as always, God provided for their needs. Difficult circumstances often lead to stress, and complaining is a natural response. The Israelites didn't really want to be back in Egypt; they just wanted life to get a little easier. In the pressure of the moment, they could not focus on the cause of their stress (in this case, lack of trust in God); they could only think about the quickest way of escape. When pressure comes your way, resist the temptation to make a quick escape. Instead, focus on God's power and wisdom to help you deal with the cause of your stress.

**16:4-5** God promised to meet the Hebrews' need for food in the wilderness, but he decided to test their obedience. God wanted to see if they would obey his detailed instructions. We can learn to trust him as our Lord only by following. We can learn to obey by taking small steps of obedience.

They were to gather every day... except on the Sabbath however, as the seventh day was a day of rest. Jesus is the true manna from Heaven. We are to feed on Him as Jesus Himself said. That is, we are to find our nourishment and spiritual strength through our relationship with Christ. And notice that they gathered every day. So is the Christian life a daily relationship.

#### **God Provides Quail - Verses 8-12**

<sup>8</sup> Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your

grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”<sup>9</sup> Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’”<sup>10</sup> While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.<sup>11</sup> The LORD said to Moses,<sup>12</sup> “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”

**16:8** Moses showed that the people’s “murmurings”, leveled at their human leaders, were actually “against the Lord”. This is true anytime a child of God grumbles. Then Moses told them that even though the Lord did not like their complaining, He was still going to send them meat in the evening and bread in the morning to eat. This was almost a warning from Moses, that they were about to push God too far.

**16:8-12** This gave proof of his power as the Lord, and his particular favor to them as their God; when God plagued the Egyptians, it was to make them know that he is the Lord; when he provided for the Israelites, it was to make them know that he was their God.

### **Rules Are Given For Gathering The Manna - Verses 13-21**

<sup>13</sup> That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.<sup>14</sup> When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.<sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.”<sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.’”<sup>17</sup> The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little.<sup>18</sup> And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.<sup>19</sup> Then Moses said to them, “No one is to keep any of it until morning.”<sup>20</sup> However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.<sup>21</sup> Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away.

**16:13** God is good for His word. The quails came that very evening. It seems they came in and landed, and sat there to be caught. This bread that fell from heaven looked like white frost. When the dampness of the morning was gone, there were left little round portions of bread, they would be Manna. At any rate, they were little tiny droplets of something that could substitute for bread. To feed 2-1/2 million people, there would have to be an abundance of quail and an abundance of manna. “Manna” means, what is it?

**16:14-16** Manna (16:31) appeared on the ground each day as thin flakes like frost. The people gathered it, ground it like grain, and made it into honey-tasting pancakes. For the Israelites the manna was a gift—it came every day and was just what they needed. It satisfied their temporary physical need. In John 6:48-51 Jesus compares himself to manna. Christ is our daily bread who satisfies our eternal, spiritual need.

## Rules For Manna And The Sabbath - Verses 22-30

<sup>22</sup> On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. <sup>23</sup> He said to them, "This is what the LORD commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.'" <sup>24</sup> So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. <sup>25</sup> "Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today. <sup>26</sup> Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any." <sup>27</sup> Nevertheless some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. <sup>28</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? <sup>29</sup> Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where they are on the seventh day; no one is to go out." <sup>30</sup> So the people rested on the seventh day.

**16:22** God promised to provide twice as much on the sixth day, and He did. This was the first time God spoke to Israel about the Sabbath. God essentially forced them to honor the Sabbath by not providing any bread from heaven on the Sabbath day.

**16:23** The Israelites were not to work on the Sabbath—not even to cook food. Why? God knew that the busy routine of daily living could distract people from worshiping him. It is so easy to let work, family responsibilities, and recreation crowd our schedules so tightly that we don't take time to worship. Carefully guard your time with God.

**16:23** Despite what God said, some went looking for bread from heaven when He said there would be none. Some will only learn by personal experience. This was a powerful lesson, teaching Israel to trust what God said before they had proven it true in experience. People today still look for life and fulfillment in places God has said there would be none.

## One Jar Of Manna Is Kept As A Memorial Of God's Provision - Verses 31-35

<sup>31</sup> The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey. <sup>32</sup> Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the wilderness when I brought you out of Egypt.'" <sup>33</sup> So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come." <sup>34</sup> As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna with the tablets of the covenant law, so that it might be preserved. <sup>35</sup> The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan. <sup>36</sup> (An omer is one-tenth of an ephah.)

**16:32** The Hebrews put some manna in a special jar as a reminder of the way God provided for them in the wilderness. Symbols have always been an important part of Christian worship also. We use special objects as symbols to remind us of God's work. Such symbols can be valuable aids to our worship as long as we are careful to keep them from becoming objects of worship. Jesus is the bread from heaven, and we have to receive Him like Israel received the manna.