

Exodus 16

Verses 1- 3

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. ² The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 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.”

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.

See Map 1605



Two months after they had left Egypt they came to the Wilderness of Sin which is about half way between Elim and Mount Sinai.

See chart 1610

| Exodus time line | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Exodus | Event | Year 1 - 1446 | Place |
| 12:2 | New Calendar | 1-1-01 | Egypt |
| 12:3 | Select a lamb | 1-10-01 | Egypt |
| 12:37 | The Exodus from Egypt | 1-15-01 | Rameses |
| 14:21-22 | Crossing of the Red Sea | | Read Sea |
| 15:23 | Bitter water | | Marah |
| 15:27 | 12 springs and 70 palm trees | | Elim |
| 16:1 | Manna and quail | 3-15-01 | The Desert of Sin |
| 17:1 | no water, Amalekites defeated | | Rephidim |
| 18 | Judges appointed | | Near the Mountain of God |
| 19:1 | Camped in front of the mountain | 4th month | The Desert of Sinai |
| 20 | The ten commandments | | The Desert of Sinai |
| 21-23 | Laws and regulations | | The Desert of Sinai |
| 24 | Covenant confirmed | 40 days and nights | The Desert of Sinai |
| 25-31 | Tabernacle envisioned | | The Desert of Sinai |
| 32 | Golden Calf | Month 5 or 6 | The Desert of Sinai |
| 34 | New stone tablets | Month 6 or 7 | The Desert of Sinai |
| 36-39 | Time to Build the Tabernacle | 5 to 6 months | The Desert of Sinai |
| Exodus | Event | Year 2 - 1445 | Place |
| 40:1 | Set up the Tabernacle | 1-1-02 | The Desert of Sinai |

² The whole congregation of the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

This was the 3rd time that Israel had murmured since they left Egypt. The other two times were at the following places:

1. The Red Sea crossing Exodus 14:11 - 12

¹¹ Then they said to Moses, “Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, ‘Leave us alone so that we may serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness!”

2. Bitter water at Marah Exodus 15:24

²⁴ **So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”**

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.**

The people were complaining because of the lack of meat and bread. It had only been two months since they left Egypt with large herds of livestock and we know they still had herds because they are mentioned in the next chapter.

See Exodus 17:3

³ **But the people were thirsty for water there; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why is it that you have brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?**

So while they were complaining about the lack of meat and bread it seems that their main complaint was the lack of bread. God will answer their concerns by providing bread on a daily basis until they reach the Promised Land.

God will also provide meat in the form of quails but since that was not done on a regular basis like the manna we can conclude it was not a major problem like the lack of bread.

Verses 4 - 8

⁴ **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. ⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” ⁶ 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; ⁷ and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, for He hears your grumbings against the Lord; and what are we, that you grumble against us?” 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 grumbings which you grumble against Him. And what are we? Your grumbings are not against us but against the Lord.”**

⁴ 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.

By gathering only one day's ration, God could test Israel to see if they would trust Him to provide on a daily basis and if they would obey His rules.

⁵ On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.”

Moses and Aaron told the people about gathering twice as much on day 6 but they did not explain why at this point in time.

⁶ 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; ⁷ 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?”

The people were testing the Lord and Moses & Aaron tells them that they will receive a divine answer from God in the evening and in the morning. They also let the people know that their grumbling is against the Lord.

Verses 9 -12

⁹ 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 grumblings.’” ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² “I have heard the grumblings 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.’”

⁹ 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 grumblings.

If someone said that to you, would you expect good or bad news?

¹⁰ 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.

God mentions their grumblings but treats them with kindness; there was no rebuke for their behavior at this point in time.

¹² “I have heard the grumblings 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.’”

They would receive meat in the evening and bread in the morning.

Even though the people had seen God destroy the land of Egypt with 10 plagues and then experienced the crossing of the Red Sea on dry land while the waters stood up like two walls on both sides of them as they passed thru to safety and also saw the Egyptian army destroyed by those same waters they still didn't know the Lord.

Verses 13 -15

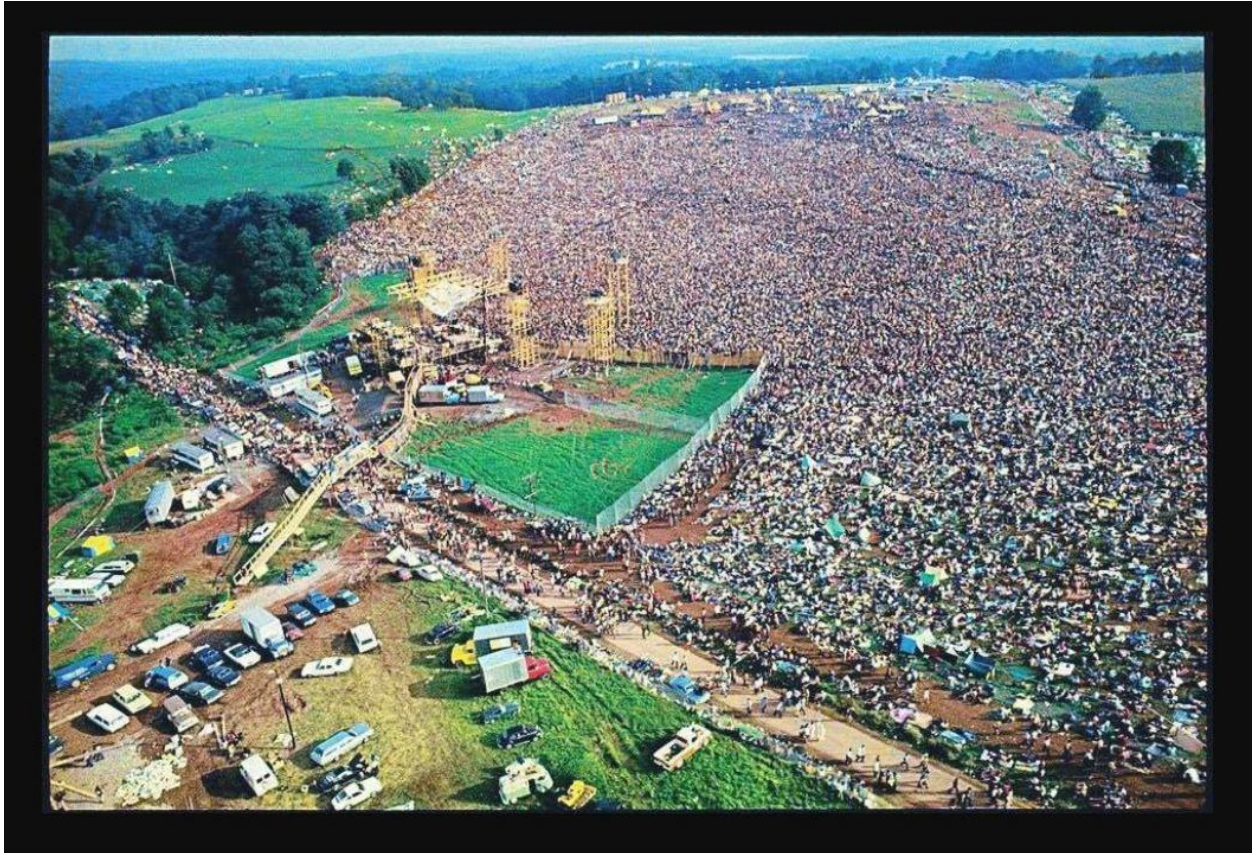
¹³ So it came about at evening that the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground. ¹⁵ When the sons 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.

¹³ 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.

The quail must have come in huge numbers considering the number of people (2.5 million) that needed to be feed.

A dressed quail, weighing around 4 ounces, yields approximately 2- 3 ounces of edible meat. From this we can assume the number of quail required would be somewhere between 4 to 6 million.

See pic 1615



This is a crowd of 400,000 at Woodstock in 1969. The people of Israel were 6 times this size. Of course this would not be a problem for God.

¹⁴ 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.

This manna was a miracle and there is no natural explanation that can explain it.

1. It appeared on the day that God had promised.
2. It appeared 6 days a week but not on the Sabbaths.
3. It would spoil if kept till the next day, except if it was a Sabbath.
4. It feed 2.5 million people per day.
5. It disappeared when they entered Canaan 40 years later.

Interestingly, it could be baked or boiled (see verse 23)

Verses 16 - 21

¹⁶ 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.’” ¹⁷ The sons of Israel did so, and *some* gathered much and *some* little. 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. ¹⁹ Moses said to them, “Let no man leave any of it until morning.” ²⁰ 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. ²¹ They gathered it morning by morning, every man as much as he should eat; but when the sun grew hot, it would melt.

¹⁶ 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.’”

There was no need for hoarding.

¹⁹ Moses said to them, “Let no man leave any of it until morning.” ²⁰ But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul

Since some families would have teenagers and other families would have small kids it made sense that some families would have too much. It seems they were commanded to eat all of it.

We are not told how many left part of it until the morning but those that did learned a good lesson about obeying what the Lord commands.

They gathered it morning by morning, every man as much as he should eat; but when the sun grew hot, it would melt.

See Matt. 6:11

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

They asked for bread and received it for 40 years.

Verses 22 - 26

²² 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, ²³ 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." ²⁴ So they put it aside until morning, as Moses had ordered, and it did not become foul nor was there any worm in it. ²⁵ Moses said, "Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. ²⁶ Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, *the Sabbath*, there will be none."

²² Now on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for each one.

The people did as Moses had instructed but they didn't know why they were to collect twice as much on Friday so the rulers of the people went to Moses for an explanation.

²³ 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.

The first occurrence of the word "Sabbath" is right here in Exodus 16:23. The reason for keeping the Sabbath was their deliverance from slavery.

See Deuteronomy 5:12 - 15

¹² **'Keep the Sabbath day to treat it as holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. ¹³ For six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁴ but the seventh day is a Sabbath of the Lord your God; you shall not do any work *that day*, you or your son or your daughter, or your male slave or your female slave, or your ox, your donkey, or any of your cattle, or your resident who stays with you, so that your male slave and your female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ And you shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to **celebrate** the Sabbath day.**

The Sabbath day was supposed to be a day of celebration but that is not what we see in the history of the Jewish people.

²⁴ So they put it aside until morning, as Moses had ordered, and it did not become foul nor was there any worm in it.

Every Sabbath was a miracle because the manna from the previous day did not spoil and this allowed the people to remain at rest on the Sabbath.

Verses 27- 30

²⁷ It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none. ²⁸ Then the Lord said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions? ²⁹ 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.” ³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

²⁷ It came about on the seventh day that some of the people went out to gather, but they found none.

Again we have no idea how many people broke the Sabbath.

²⁸ Then the Lord said to Moses, “How long do you refuse to keep My commandments and My instructions?

Interestingly, Moses was rebuked for the disobedience of those who disobeyed.

²⁹ 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.” ³⁰ So the people rested on the seventh day.

We have to remember that Moses communicated this to Aaron who then spoke it to the elders and the elders to the key members of each clan who then communicated it to the heads of each family.

It is possible that the communication from Moses did not reach all of the people as it should have so God reminded Moses of His command.

It seems that the people then rested on the 7th day as they were supposed to.

Verses 31- 36

³¹ The house of Israel named it manna, and it was like coriander seed, white, and its taste was like wafers with honey. ³² 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.’” ³³ Moses said to Aaron, “Take a jar and put a full omer of manna in it, and place it before the Lord to be kept throughout your generations.” ³⁴ As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the Testimony, to be kept. ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ (Now an omer is a tenth of an ephah.)

³¹ The house of Israel named it manna, and it was like coriander seed, white, and its taste was like wafers with honey.

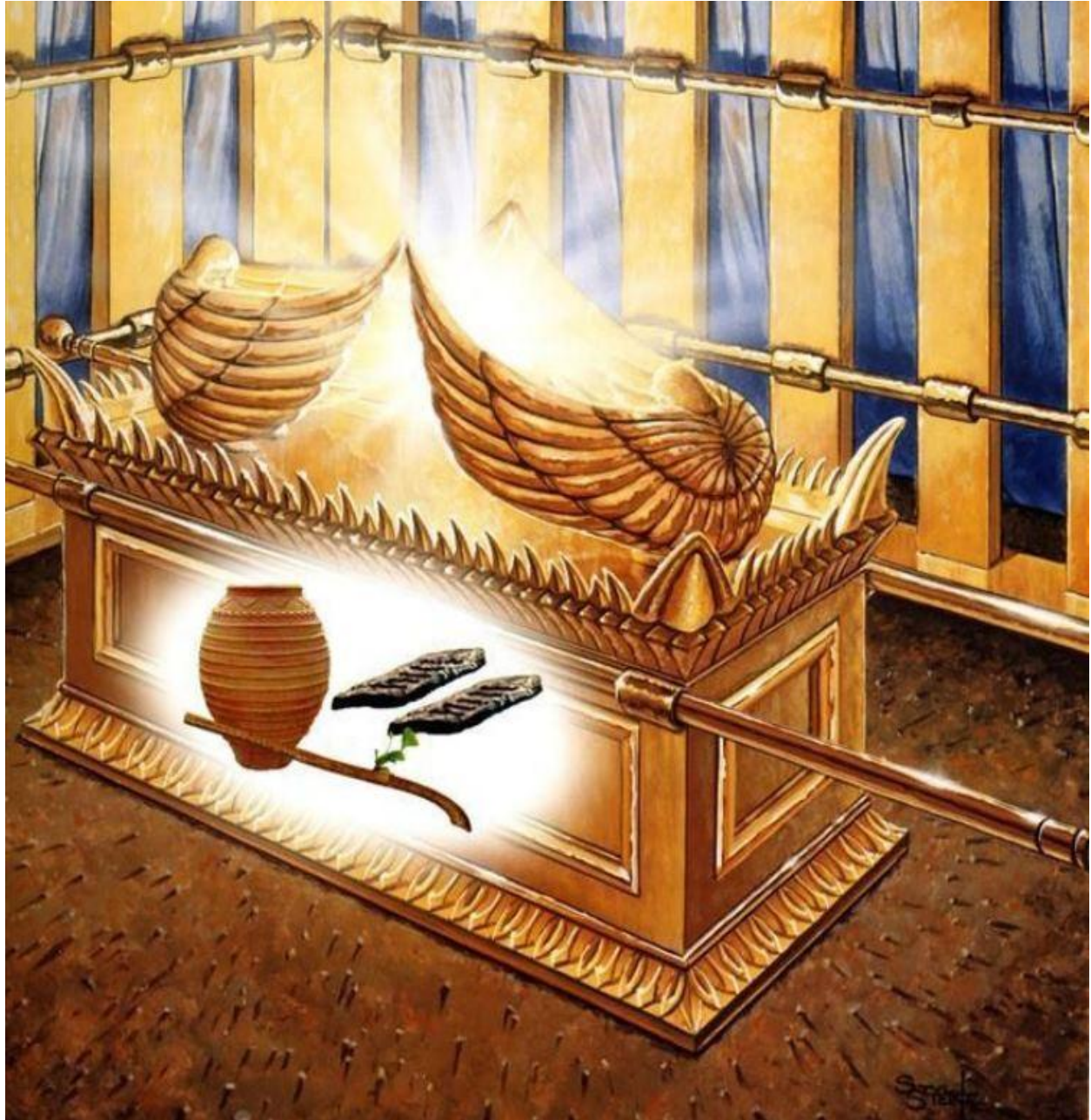
Coriander seeds are dried seed or fruit that has a sweet taste with a touch of citrus.

See pic 1620



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

See Pic 1625



The ark will not be made for another 6 to 8 months but the manna was put in a jar right then and would later be put in the ark.

See Hebrews 9:3 - 5

³ Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Most Holy Place, ⁴ having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, Aaron's staff which budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the atoning cover; but about these things we cannot now speak in detail.

The poles to carry the ark belong on the short side of the ark not the long side. Almost all of the drawings of the ark that one finds online have it wrong.

³⁵ 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.

³⁶ (Now an omer is a tenth of an ephah.)

The manna started after they had been in the wilderness for 2 months and it will not stop appearing until they enter Canaan 40 years later in 1406 BC.

Previously, we talked about how events in the Old Testament were a physical representation of a spiritual reality in the New Testament.

1. At the 1st Passover (chapter 12) the blood of the lamb saved the 1st born from physical death and in the New Testament the blood of Christ saves all believers from spiritual death.

2. Here God gives the people manna, bread from heaven, as physical food and in the New Testament God gave us Christ, as spiritual food from heaven.

See John 6:31 - 35

³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'" ³² 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. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ Then they said to Him, "Lord, always give us this bread." ³⁵ Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; the one who comes to Me will not be hungry, and the one who believes in Me will never be thirsty.