

Manna episode 2

MANNA



Episode 2

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In the first part, we saw that the manna is a symbol of the word of God. We examined its special features and how they directly relate to the word of God. Today, we explore another application of the manna.

Concerning this special bread of heaven (manna) Jesus said ...

“I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.” John 6:48 -51

Jesus clearly taught that the manna, which came from heaven, was a symbol of his flesh. As the manna was eaten in the wilderness to sustain life, so all who wish to have everlasting life must eat his flesh.

Let's review the special features and directives concerning the manna and attention given to it for preparations.

1. It came directly from God. Already made food. [The natural process of growing, harvesting was not so with this manna.] (Ex 16:4)
2. Was falling with dew. Ex 16: 14, numbers 11:9
3. People where to collect and eat 1 Omer (2.2 kg) for the day. (Ex 16:16).
4. He who collected little and him who collected much at weighing found out that they have the same weight 1 omer. (Ex 16:17-18).
5. Any remaining portions for the next day would bred worms and stink terribly. (Ex 16:20).
6. On the 6th day, a double portion for the 6th day and for the Sabbath day was given by the lord. (Ex 16:5). No one as to collect it on the Sabbath. (Ex 16:22-30)
7. On this occasion alone would the manna not stink. (Ex 16: 24)
8. Some of it was collected and placed in the golden pot. Later when the ark of the testimony was of made, it was put inside the ark of the testament. (Ex 16:32-33).
9. Could be pounded, boiled it in pans, and baked into cakes. (Numb 11:8).
10. It stopped raining when the children of Israel ate the corn of the Promised Land. (Ex 16:35).

Jesus taught that the manna was a symbol his flesh. How then does it meet

1. It came directly from God as already-made food. (Ex 16:4)

When the Israelites reached the wilderness, they became hungry. They wanted food but could not plant, neither manufacture it themselves. God then provided Manna which escaped the natural process of planting, wedding, growing and harvesting. It was provided by God and the people had to just collect it for food. The only way to survive hunger was collect and eat.

And so is it with the flesh of Jesus. God has given us this free gift of Jesus whole, and what we can do is just to accept and receive it.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"God so loved the world, which he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." He crowned His benevolence by the **inestimable gift of Jesus**. By this sacrifice, a healing flood of life and heavenly grace was poured upon

the antitype in Jesus' flesh? And how does this have to do with you and me.

our world. This was **God's gift to man**--a gift that defies all computation. {Up word Look 201.5}

Through Jesus Christ, every good gift comes to earth. And in case we want to satisfy our spiritual nakedness, we need to receive Jesus Christ in our lives. There is no other way. He fills the spiritual gap in our lives, he provides the graces and the love our souls crave for. And as the children of Israel where doing so in the wilderness, so are we to do so while on earth.

2. Was falling with dew. Exodus 16:14, numbers 11:9

The bible says "*And **when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it***". Numbers 11:9 we clearly showed in the first part that the dew represents the spirit of God.

How was this fulfilled in the flesh of Jesus Christ? Does the flesh of Jesus have any connection with the spirit of God? The bible tells us that Mary only conceived when the power of the Holy Ghost overshadowed her.

“And the angel answered and said unto her, **The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee:** therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Luke 1:35

The manna episode indicates that without the Holy Ghost coming upon Mary, Jesus' birth would be uncertain. What the Holy Spirit did in the inside Mary, it becomes blasphemous to presume since we don't have any information. But his coming, his birth in the womb of Mary, is by the power of the holy spirit.

3. People where to collect and eat 1 Omer for the day. (Ex 16:16).

Manna was not provided in plates as do food orders made from restaurants. The children of Israel needed to go out and collect it. It was small in size like hoarfrost. Every individual would collect 1 omer for the day. 1 omer is equivalent to 1/10th an ephah. An ephah is approximately 22 kgs thus an omer would be 2.2 kgs. One omer is one. Jesus is the only begotten son of God. He's sole and we don't need additions neither is he to be subtracted from. His merits are enough for every human being who has ever existed and who will ever exist.

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” 1John4:9

The flesh of the son of God has been given for the benefit of every individual as if they were the only individual on the planet. In fact this scenario proves that even if there was only one individual on the planet, Jesus would still die for that one individual. But in order to benefit, every individual must themselves believe that Jesus was given for them. **“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** Matthew 11:28 And as we shall see later in this article, each must individually eat the flesh of the Jesus.

The same lesson is taught with those who collected little and those who collected much. When they weighed, it was found that both had 1 omer.

“And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less. And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.” Exodus 16:17-18

The lesson is too plain to be misunderstood. Imagine gathering less but on weighing, you discover that actually, it is one omer. The same surprise is given to the one who gathered much. Jesus and what he offers are all we need, in their entirety. There is no accepting his death and leaving out his righteousness, there is no accepting him as the lamb of God and denying him as the high priest. All he provides must be taken and accepted by us, and this we do while we are on earth.

4. The manna was eaten that day; any remaining portions would breed worms and stink terribly, except on the 6th day, when a double portion was gathered for the 6th day and for the Sabbath. No one was to collect it on the Sabbath. (Ex 16:22-30)

Ordinary bread does not produce worms nor does it emit an odour; it simply dries out and moulds. What causes worms and odour is a corpse. What was the significance of this? Why then, on the sixth day, did it not produce worms?

This was a lesson to Jesus. As long as he remained faithful to God and refrained from sin, his body would not undergo decay. He would not decompose. As prophesied by David, he was to remain

holy throughout his life. "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Psalms 16:10

And this applies to Jesus

*"Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, **Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.**" For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption."* Acts 13:35-37

As the manna was collected on the 6th day, and remained as fresh as it was collected by the 7th day, so Jesus' body who died on the 6th day at 3:00pm, his body remained as fresh on Sunday morning as it placed there on Friday evening. It did not see decomposition.

When a human being dies, decomposition starts immediately. Within a period of just 30 minutes, the blood has pooled to the side which is closest to the ground (due to action of gravity) and it begins to be noticeable within 1-2 hours. During this period of time, water has separated from the blood and water is distributed in the body. The result is that the skin becomes generally pale. However,

after Jesus died, officers came to break the bones to hasten the death. When they reached Jesus, they found that he had died. Why then plunge in into his side a spear?

*“But when they came to Jesus, **and saw that he was dead already**, they brake not his legs: But one of the **soldiers with a spear pierced his side**, and forthwith came there out **blood and water**.” John 19:33-34*

What where they experimenting? Well, they knew that when a person dies, in just a period of 2 hours, the skin has changed color, and water has separated from the blood. When the officer reached the body of Jesus, he was cold but his skin was showing no signs of paleness. So he had to plunge his pear into his body. When they saw the water and blood, they confirmed that indeed he had died. The only visible to show that he had died was the change in temperature.

In a very special sense, the manna which did not bred worms nor stank from the 6th day to the 1st day of the week, was pointing to Jesus who would not see corruption. The question automatically rises. If Jesus' body never rot, then did he really die? Well the bible points to two kinds

of death. One is a consequence of sin and the other a penalty. Death as a consequence is characterized by corruption and becoming dust (this is what God in mercy assigned to man). Death as a penalty is ceasing to exist and will happen at hell fire. Those who die at the second death don't corrupt. But they vanish totally, they are burnt to complete annihilation. This is the kind of death Jesus died, and because he didn't see corruption, we are sure that he died the penalty.

The people were not to gather manna on the Sabbath, it was a day of rest. In the same way Jesus rested in the tomb from his work of redemption on the Sabbath day, and was resurrected on first day of the week to proceed forth with work. The manna not breeding worms was pointing to he who would not see corruption in any way. That he would be the messiah that it was he whom the father had given to the world for the remission of sin.

In the lens of time, the bible says that one day is like 1000 years before the Lord. (2 Peter 3:8). The creation week is a type of what happens in each successive millennium of the earth's history. The last millennium, which is the 7th millennium, will be a millennium of rest for God's people. In

this respect, it is during the 6th millennium that we are, where we need Jesus with us twice as much as all the successive millennia. Sure, our generation is the weakest morally, physically and intellectually. Thus our iniquity is far higher than all the other generations. But where sins abound, grace even abounds more. We need Jesus more than ever, to be with us, to communicate with us, to give us more grace and more love.

5. 1 omer was collected and placed in the golden pot. (Exodus 16:32-33).

Moses directed Aaron to do this. Put one omer in a pot and **put it before the Lord** as a remembrance for the generations to come

“And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.” Exodus 16:33

Hebrews 9:3 indicates that this pot of manna was in the ark. However, when the ark was being transported to the temple built by Solomon, the bible shows that there was nothing except the tables of stone.

“There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put

there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.” 1Kings 8:9

What is the meaning of this in relation to the flesh of Jesus? The answer lies in the structural locations of the sanctuary. The sanctuary in the wilderness was a tent type which was movable, easily carried from one place to the other. The sanctuary temple built by Solomon, was a permanent structure.

The bible clearly reveals that there were 2 sanctuaries, one in heaven and the other in earth. For the sanctuary on earth was made after the pattern of the one in heaven. “Who serve unto the **example and shadow** of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the **pattern** shewed to thee in the mount Heb_8:5.”

The manna was present in the movable tent-type structure, but it was not seen in the permanent structure of the temple in the permanent city of Jerusalem. This indicates Jesus’ intercession before the Father. This intercession will not be in the new Jerusalem which the Lord will give

unto his people. Jesus will be with his people, not in the temple of God.

*“And I John saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:2*

*“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the **tabernacle of God is with men**, and **he will dwell with them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Revelations 21:3*

a. Could be pounded, boiled in pans, and baked into cakes. (Numbers 11:8).

After the collection of the manna it was to be pounded in powder, boiled and baked into cakes for food. And this was an irreversible process.

“And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.” Numbers 11:8

This indicated that though the father gave us the whole body of Christ it was to be bruised by human sin. Also it depicted the fact that human beings under the

control of evil agencies could literally crush the body of the son of God. One commentator said that you would literally not recognize a skin on the flesh

*“But he was **wounded for our transgressions**, he was **bruised for our iniquities**: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5*

God gave us a son who is physically perfect, but because of our sin, he will forever retain the wounds in his hands and feet as the process of baking manner was an irreversible reaction.

*“And one shall say unto him, what are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, **those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.**” Zechariah 13:6*

6. It stopped raining when the children of Israel ate the corn of the Promised Land. (Exodus 16:35).

When the children of Israel stepped into the Promised Land and ate the corn thereof, the manna stopped raining. They never tasted the manna again, till now it has never rained again.

*“And the **manna ceased** on the morrow after they had **eaten of the old corn of the***

land; neither had the children of Israel manna anymore; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.” Joshua 5:12

As it was with the manna, so Jesus’ body will never be wounded or hurt again when we step into the heavenly Canaan. All sins have been forgiven and atoned for. When he was on earth his body was wounded literally by the stripes, the nails and the blows. When he is in heaven, he is still being bruised emotionally and mentally by the wrong acts we do on earth.

*“If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; **seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.**” Hebrews 6:6*

There are many ways in which human beings can crucify the Son of God afresh, and put Him to open shame..... By hasty words and selfish deeds, **men often grieve the heart of Christ.** {This Day with God 339.4}

Conclusion.

In a very special sense, our God never does things for purposes of just doing. He has a reason as to why he ordains what he has to be done. All along the prophets until

the time of Jesus, who could think that the manna is a representation of the body of Jesus? And all these precious lessons learnt from the word of God, how could we know if God had not given the manna the way he decided to give it? Jesus said that his body, his flesh is the living bread of the world, which must be eaten to receive eternal life

*“I am the **living bread** which came down from heaven: if any man **eat of this bread**, he shall **live forever**: and the bread that I will give **is my flesh**, which I will give for the life of the world. Then Jesus said unto them, verily, verily, I say unto you, except ye **eat the flesh of the Son of man**, and drink his blood, ye have **no life in you.**” John 6:51,53*

The Jews took the eating of the flesh of Jesus literally, and did not understand, as a result they fled from him *“From that time many of his disciples went back, and **walked no more with him.**” John 6:66 .* They reasoned, is this man going to give us his flesh to eat? Shall we dissect him, even if we decide to, can his flesh be enough for us?

Frankly speaking, that is not what he meant. Jesus’ expressions often were not literal. For example he said he was going

to destroy the temple, and raise it in three days. He didn't mean herod's temple which was standing erect in Jerusalem. *"Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple**, and in three days I will raise it up."* John 2:19

Another example is when Jesus said to be born again. Jesus did not mean to go again in the mother's womb and then be born again. *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* John 3:3

The last example I will give here is when Jesus said he was going to give the woman at the well that he was going to give her water, which she was not going to thirsty and this was going to become a well in her *"But whosoever **drinketh of the water** that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him **a well of water** springing up into everlasting life."* John 4:14

That means that when Jesus said that his flesh was meat and his blood was drink, it was not literal. Many have taken this to be literal. Some religious organizations have gone to an extent that if they speak a few words, the bread and wine they hold in their hands turns into the literal blood and

body of Jesus. Thus they believe that by eating that, they have life in them!

So we pose a question here. **What did Jesus exactly mean?**

The manna episode reveals that the flesh of Jesus is the word of Jesus to us. As we have already indicated. It was given the name bread of heaven. Which name applies to both to the flesh of Jesus and the word of God. But in case one did not understand this, the bible shows that

*John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the **Word was with God**, and the Word was God.*

*John 1:14 And the **Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

The flesh being the word is what Christ meant should be eaten. It is the words of Christ which should be assimilated, in the spiritual body. Let's look at the effects of eating the flesh of Christ and the results.

Effects of eating the flesh of Christ.

1. Those who eat will not die, they have eternal life meaning they live forever.

*John 6:50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, **and not die.***

*John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **hath eternal life;** and I will raise him up at the last day.*

*John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, **he shall live forever:** and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

2. Those who eat dwell in Christ and he dwells in him.

*John 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, **dwelleth in me, and I in him.***

Those who eat the flesh of the son of God, live forever. They also dwell in Christ and he dwells in him. Let's look at other scriptures which point to the same products.

Believing in Jesus gives eternal life.

*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, **but have everlasting life.***

Obedience leads to Jesus abiding in us and we in him.

*1John 3:24 And he that **keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him.** And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

Looking at the scripture, the act of having eternal life and abiding in Jesus is present continuous. In the entire bible, believing in Jesus, eating his flesh and obedience are the only ones which grants eternal life in the present continuous tense.

This indicates that eating the flesh of the son of God and believing in Jesus results in obedience. Eternal life is a reward given to all this. But you can't obey what you don't know, we are obedient to the word. Eating the flesh of Jesus means assimilating his word which alone results into obedience.

"How little children are educated to study the **"Bible as the word of God,"** and feed upon its truths, **which are the flesh and blood** of the Son of God! "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood [that is, continues to receive the words of Christ, and practice them], hath eternal life; and I

will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him." **"And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him.** And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us." {Fundamentals of Christian education 385.3}"

Ellen white connects the words of God the bible as the flesh of Jesus Christ. When obeyed will let Christ dwell in us and we in him. To this last generation, Jesus is represented as being outside the heart knocking. This he does through his word. When we hear his words and obey them, then he comes in and dwells with and in us. Without this, there is no eternal life in us.

We need to get down to seriousness. This business where our morning devotional lives are staggering, where we read the bible to fulfill the condition that we have read, where we only learn when the preacher is preaching on the Sabbath, where we read the bible superficially needs to stop. And when we get the word, instead of consulting our wounded passions and affections, we need to do that which it says. That's only when Christ will abide in the

heart, and he does it now. Right now choose to feed on his word, choose to obey him and he will abide with and in you.

Episode 1