

**CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF GOD'S ECONOMY
PORTRAYED IN EXODUS (2)—PROVISION**

Message Three

**Israel's Experience of Manna and
God's Dealing with the Flesh of His People**

Scripture Reading: Exo. 16:1-16, 35; Phil. 2:14; Gal. 5:19-21;
John 6:31-32, 35, 56-58; Rom. 8:8, 13

I. After the marvelous experience at Elim, the flesh of the children of Israel still remained; the same is true with us in our spiritual experience; after having an exciting experience, we still are troubled by the flesh—Exo. 16:1-2:

- A. Exodus 16:2 says, "And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness." Murmuring is an expression of the flesh, the totality of man's fallen being—Phil. 2:14.
- B. Although the thirst of the people had been quenched by the twelve springs at Elim, the people were still hungry because of the lack of food; in such a situation the flesh of God's people was exposed:
 - 1. Every believer has problems with the flesh and with the lust of the flesh; it is dealt with only when Christ becomes our daily life supply—Rom. 7:18; 8:8.
 - 2. Although the flesh may be dealt with repeatedly, it is still with us; however, whenever we are satisfied by Christ as the heavenly life supply, the flesh with its lust is conquered—Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 8:13.
 - 3. What helps us most in our daily living with the Lord is not the drinking of the twelve springs at Elim, it is the eating of Christ as the heavenly manna—John 6:31-32, 35, 56-58.
 - 4. The experience at Elim comes occasionally; however, the children of Israel partook of manna daily for a period of forty years; this indicates clearly that the experience of manna is daily and continual—Exo. 16:35; Deut. 8:3; cf. Josh. 5:11-12.
 - 5. It is crucial to see that the shortage of the heavenly supply of Christ is what causes our flesh to be exposed; no matter what exciting experiences we have had in the Spirit, we still need to partake of Christ daily as our heavenly manna.

II. We need to see how the Lord comes in to deal with the flesh of His people; He deals with their flesh by showing them His glory—Exo. 16:4-30:

- A. God's glory appeared for the purpose of rescuing His people from their murmuring by condemning them; it is significant that the Lord's glory did not appear to His people when they were at Elim, but when they were murmuring in the wilderness—Exo. 16:7, 10.
- B. After the glory of the Lord appeared to the people, He sent quails to satisfy their lust in eating, to show them His sufficiency, and to discipline them with His anger—Exo. 16:12-13; Num. 11:18-20, 31, 32-34:

1. The Egyptian diet denotes the worldly things and amusements that people feed on in order to find satisfaction; in Egypt the children of Israel had eaten only Egyptian food; hence, they had become Egyptian in their constitution and their appetite—Exo. 16:3.
2. If we continue to lust for worldly things after we are saved, God may give them to us, but He will not be happy in doing so; God will give you what you lust after, but you may experience His displeasure.
3. Manna is given only after our flesh has been exposed due to the shortage of the inner life supply; it is given when we recognize our need for something more than the twelve springs at Elim.

III. We need to see the way manna is sent; it is sent in the morning, indicating that the manna causes us to have a new beginning—Exo. 16:13-14; Num. 11:9:

- A. The quails which satisfied the lust of the people came in the evening; manna comes to refresh us at the beginning of the day—Exo. 16:13-14.
- B. It was sent with the dew, which signifies the Lord's refreshing and watering grace brought in by His fresh compassions—Exo. 16:14; Num. 11:9; cf. Psa. 133:3; Prov. 19:12; Lam. 3:22-23.
- C. The manna falls around the camp; the camp refers to the arrangement of God's people into an army indicating that the nourishment of manna is for God's people, as an army, to fight the battle for God's interests on earth.

Focus:

The main point of this message is that after we have a wonderful and exciting experience at Elim, we discover that the flesh is still with us. The exposure of the flesh is the result of being undernourished. This indicates our need to have our hunger satisfied by being filled with Christ day by day. This message may explain why after having such a wonderful time at the conference we still have the same failures again. Whenever we are not filled with Him, our flesh with its lust will appear again.