

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

Message Four

**God's Intention to Reconstitute His People
through a Change of Diet**

Scripture Reading: Exo. 16:1-5, 13-31; John 6:31-35, 48-51, 57-58; Num. 11:4-5, 33-34

I. The deep truth in Exodus 16 is that God wants to change our diet to a diet of Christ as the real manna sent by God the Father for God's chosen people to live by Christ—John 6:31-35, 48-51, 57-58:

- A. This picture shows us that in God's salvation He desires to work Himself into us to be everything to us; God intends to be our everything so that we can be built up as His dwelling place on earth.
- B. Although the children of Israel had been redeemed and delivered, they were still Egyptian in their constitution; as far as constitution is concerned, there was no difference between them and the Egyptians.
- C. Two things concerning them were exposed: that they were constituted of the Egyptian element, and that their appetite, hunger, thirst, and desire were still Egyptian.

II. Now we come to the important matter of what the Egyptian diet is and what it includes; the Egyptian diet denotes all the things we desire to feed on in order to find satisfaction—Exo. 16:3, Num. 11:4-5, 33-34; cf. Acts 7:39:

- A. The Egyptian diet causes people to become Egyptian in their constitution; the Egyptian diet constitutes people with the Egyptian element and makes them Egyptian in their composition—Exo. 16:3; Num. 11:4-5.
- B. The Egyptian diet fits the lust of the flesh; anything worldly fits the taste of our lustful flesh.
- C. The people's desire for the Egyptian diet provoked God's holy anger; it was in His anger and displeasure that He sent them quails—Num. 11:1.
- D. The Egyptian diet issues in death; the result of the Egyptian diet is always spiritual death—Num. 11:33-34.

III. I hope that we all shall grasp the point that eating manna causes us to correspond to God; the more manna we eat, the more we correspond to Him and are identified with Him; the heavenly diet makes people heavenly—John 6:31-35; 56-58:

- A. The heavenly diet is actually Christ Himself; He is the food, the real manna; therefore by eating Christ, we become Christ; that is, Christ becomes our constituent.
- B. The heavenly diet fulfills God's purpose; the people who built the tabernacle were not the Egyptians, but the reconstituted people of God:
 - 1. By feeding on manna, God's people eventually became manna; as those constituted of manna, they could build the tabernacle as God's dwelling place.

2. For the building of the church, we all need to be reconstituted with Christ; after being reconstituted, they themselves are the dwelling place of God.
- C. The heavenly diet also tests us in relation to God's will and proves where we are; where we are will be proved by the detailed regulations concerning the gathering of manna—Exo. 16:4-5, 16-30.
- D. The heavenly diet also keeps God's people alive to fulfill His purpose; by means of the heavenly diet we are kept alive for the sake of God's dwelling place, not for any other purpose—Exo. 16:35; John 6:57:
 1. Along with the change of diet, we need a change of appetite; we must turn from the fleshpots, the fish, the cucumbers, the melons, the onions, the garlic, and the leeks to Christ, the unique heavenly food supplied by God.
 2. For Christ to be our diet means that He is everything to us; He is even our television, entertainment, music, newspapers, and sports.
 3. We all should be able to testify that the Lord has changed our diet from so many items to just one, the heavenly manna.

IV. There is no matter in the whole book of Exodus more crucial than this matter of the change of diet; the main point in Exodus 16 is that God intends to reconstitute His redeemed people by changing their diet.

Focus:

It is important to understand this message in a proper way. The burden is not to issue a charge to the saints about the love of the world. It is to point out the need for a change in our diet. May the Lord take away the desire and hunger for anything other than Christ! We need clothing and a proper dwelling place. However, our appetite, our desire, should not be for these things. Our appetite should be for Christ.