

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

Message Five

**The Characteristics of Christ
as our Heavenly Diet**

Scripture Reading: Exo. 16:4-5, 13-15, 31-36; Num. 11:5-9; John 6:31-35, 48-51, 57-58; Lam. 3:22-23;
John 6:12; 8:58; Psa. 12:6; 119:103, 140

- I. Manna is a type of Christ as the unique heavenly food for God's people; by giving them manna to eat, God indicated that His intention was to change the nature of His people, to change their very constitution, for the accomplishing of His purpose—Exo. 16:15, 31; John 6:31-35, 48-51, 57-58; Num. 11:5-6; cf. 1 Tim. 1:12; 2 Cor. 3:6.**
- II. The characteristics of Christ as our unique food, our daily manna, become our characteristics as we continually enjoy Him—Exo. 16:4-5, 13-15, 31; Num. 11:6-9; John 6:57:**
 - A. Manna came from heaven, making it heavenly; on the one hand, manna has all the elements needed to sustain man's physical body and on the other hand, manna is a heavenly food—Exo. 16:4; John 6:32-33, 51.
 - B. Manna came with the dew; the dew signifies the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ; every morning the Lord's grace is as fresh as the dew—Exo. 16:13-14; Num. 11:9; Psa. 133:3; Lam. 3:22-23; Heb. 4:16; Psa. 110:3.
 - C. The manna was sent in the morning; the fact that manna came in the morning indicates that it gives us a new beginning—Exo. 16:21; cf. S.S. 1:6b; 7:12; John 5:39-40; Rom. 6:4; 7:6.
 - D. Contrary to the human concept, manna was something small; instead of being great, the Lord wanted to be small in order to be food for us—Exo. 16:14b; Luke 2:12; John 6:35; cf. Judg. 9:9, 11, 13; Matt. 13:31-32.
 - E. Another characteristic of manna is its fineness; manna was very fine and even; by nature, we are coarse and unbalanced but when we take the Lord Jesus as our food, we become fine and even—Exo. 16:14a; John 6:12.
 - F. The manna was round; the roundness of manna signifies that Christ is eternal, without beginning or ending; Christ is eternal food with an eternal nature for eternal nourishment without limitation—Exo. 16:14; John 8:58.
 - G. The manna was white indicating that it was clean and pure, without any kind of mixture; only Christ and His word are pure—Exo. 16:31; Psa. 12:6; 119; 140; 2 Cor. 11:3b.
 - H. The manna was also like frost; both dew and frost are refreshing, but frost kill germs; whenever we experience Christ as the life supply, we are watered and refreshed, and the negative things within us, are put to death—Exo. 16:14; Prov. 17:27.
 - I. We are told that the manna was like coriander seed; this indicates that as food Christ is full of life; when we eat Christ, He comes into us as a seed—Exo. 16:31; Num. 11:7; Luke 8:11.

- J. The fact that manna also was solid is implied in the description of how the people prepared it; in order to be ground, beaten, and boiled the manna had to be solid—Num. 11:8; 2 Cor. 1:4; Eph. 6:18.
- K. We are told that the appearance of manna was like the appearance of bdellium; this has been interpreted to signify two different substances, both a white transparent gum and a white pearl—Num. 11:7; Rev. 4:6, 8; Ezek. 1:18:
- L. Manna has the taste like that of fresh oil which typifies the Holy Spirit; when we eat Christ as our manna, we taste the Spirit of God—Num. 11:8; Psa. 92:10.
- M. Manna's taste is like that of wafers made with honey; honey is the mingling of two lives, the produce of the animal life and the vegetable life—Exo. 16:31; Psa. 119:103.
- N. Manna is good for making cakes which were a form of fine bread and were nourishing; as the cakes made from manna, Christ is rich in nourishment—Num. 11:8; John 6:41; 1 Tim. 4:6.
- O. Finally, manna was a mystery; in fact, the word manna means, “What is it?” None of the children of Israel knew what manna was—Exo. 16:15; Col. 2:2; Isa. 9:6; Eph. 3:4; John 3:8.

Focus:

The deep truth in Exodus 16 is that God wants to change our diet. The crucial point here is not whether or not we love the world; it is whether or not our diet has been changed. There is a tremendous difference between learning not to love the world and having a change of diet. May the Lord use this message to impress the young people with the characteristics of manna and the benefit of eating Christ every day to have a change in our constitution.