

Exodus 16:2-15

There in the desert they started complaining to Moses and Aaron, ³“We wish the LORD had killed us in Egypt. When we lived there, we could at least sit down and eat all the bread and meat we wanted. But you have brought us out here into this desert, where we are going to starve.” ⁴The LORD said to Moses, “I will send bread^[a] down from heaven like rain. Each day the people can go out and gather only enough for that day. That’s how I will see if they obey me. ⁵But on the sixth day of each week they must gather and cook twice as much.”

⁶Moses and Aaron told the people, “This evening you will know that the LORD was the one who rescued you from Egypt. ⁷And in the morning you will see his glorious power, because he has heard your complaints against him. Why should you grumble to us? Who are we?”⁸ Then Moses continued, “You will know it is the LORD when he gives you meat each evening and more than enough bread each morning. He is really the one you are complaining about, not us—we are nobodies—but the LORD has heard your complaints.”

⁹Moses turned to Aaron and said, “Bring the people together, because the LORD has heard their complaints.”¹⁰ Aaron was speaking to them, when everyone looked out toward the desert and saw the bright glory of the LORD in a cloud. ¹¹The LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard my people complain. Now tell them that each evening they will have meat and each morning they will have more than enough bread. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.”

¹³That evening a lot of quails came and landed everywhere in the camp, and the next morning dew covered the ground. ¹⁴After the dew had gone, the desert was covered with thin flakes that looked like frost. ¹⁵The people had never seen anything like this, and they started asking each other, “What is it?” Moses answered, “This is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

Exodus 16:31-35

³¹The Israelites called the bread manna.^[a] It was white like coriander seed and delicious as wafers made with honey. ³²Moses told the people that the LORD had said, “Store up two quarts of this manna, because I want future generations to see the food I gave you during the time you were in the desert after I rescued you from Egypt.”

³³Then Moses told Aaron, “Put some manna in a jar and store it in the place of worship for future generations to see.”

³⁴Aaron followed the LORD’s instructions and put the manna in front of the sacred chest for safekeeping. ³⁵⁻³⁶The Israelites ate manna for forty years, before they came to the border of Canaan that was a settled land.^[a]