### Exodus

## Chapter 16

1Thereafter, they left AiLim, and the entire gathering of the children of IsraEl traveled into the Sin Desert, which is between AiLim and SinAi. And on the 15th day of the 2nd month from their leaving the land of Egypt, 2the entire gathering of the children of IsraEl [once again] started complaining to Moses and Aaron.  
  
3They told them:  
  
 ‘We would rather have died [with those who were] struck by Jehovah in the land of Egypt, back when we could sit by the stew pots and eat all the bread we wanted!  
  
 ‘But now you’ve brought us out into this desert just to starve us all to death!’  
  
4And the Lord said to Moses:  
  
 ‘Look! I’ll rain bread upon you from the skies!  
  
 ‘Then the people will go out and gather their allotment for each day, so I can test them to see whether they’ll follow My Law... 5For on the 6th day they must gather all that they can, and it’ll be double that which they could gather on the previous days.’  
  
6So Moses and Aaron spoke to the entire gathering of the children of IsraEl, saying:  
  
 ‘This evening you’ll realize that it was Jehovah that brought you out of the land of Egypt; 7and tomorrow morning you’ll see the glory of the Lord, since He’s heard you complaining against Him… And what are we, that you should keep complaining about us?’  
  
8Then Moses continued, saying:  
  
 ‘This evening, Jehovah will give you meat to eat; and in the morning, He will provide enough bread to satisfy you.  
  
 ‘For Jehovah has heard all the complaints that you’ve made against us… Yet, what are we? You aren’t complaining against us, but against God!’  
  
9And Moses said to Aaron:  
  
 ‘Now, tell the entire gathering of the children of IsraEl that they must go over and approach God, since He’s heard all their complaining!’  
  
10So, after Aaron said this to them, they all turned and faced the desert… And the glory of the Lord appeared in a cloud!  
  
11Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 12‘I’ve heard all the children of IsraEl’s complaining, so tell them:  
  
 ‘This evening you’ll eat meat, and in the morning you’ll have enough bread to satisfy you… And then you’ll know that I am Jehovah your God.’  
  
13Well that evening, a [huge flock] of quail flew in and covered the camp!  
  
14And the next morning, after the dew around about the camp had dried; {Look!} on the surface of the desert (lying there like frost) was small things that looked like white coriander seeds... 15And when the children of IsraEl saw them, they asked each other:  
  
 ‘What is this [Hebrew: man-nah]?’  
  
...because they didn’t know what it was.  
  
And Moses told them:  
  
 16‘This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat… It’s what Jehovah has approved.  
  
 ‘So, every man should gather 1/3 of a bushel for each person in his family. You and those who are living with you should go out and gather it.’  
  
17And that’s what the children of IsraEl did.  
  
Although some gathered more and others gathered less, 18the ones who gathered the full 1/3 of a bushel didn’t have any leftovers, and those who gathered less never went hungry.  
  
So, they all gathered just what their households required.  
  
19Then Moses told them:  
  
 ‘Now, none of you may save any of this for the next morning.’  
  
20However, many of them wouldn’t listen to Moses, and they tried to keep it until the following morning… But by then it had worms and it smelled… And all of this irritated Moses.  
  
21So each morning, everyone would collect all that they needed, and everything melted after the sun went down. 22Then on the 6th day, they gathered twice as much as they needed… 2/3 of a bushel per person.  
  
Well, all the chiefs of their gathering thereafter came and reported what was happening to Moses. 23And Moses asked:  
  
 ‘Didn’t the Lord tell us that tomorrow is the Sabbath… A holy [day of] rest to Jehovah?  
  
 ‘Therefore, bake all that you can bake and boil all that you can boil, so that the leftovers can be stored for tomorrow!’  
  
24[So on the 6th day], they stored the leftovers until the next morning, just as Moses told them, and it didn’t stink and there weren’t any worms in it.  
  
25[And then the next day], Moses said:  
  
 ‘This is what you must eat today; for since this day is a Sabbath to Jehovah, you won’t find any of it out in the fields.  
  
 26‘You must collect it for 6 days, but because the 7th day is a Sabbath, there won’t be any then.’  
  
27However, on the 7th day some of the people still went out to collect it, but they couldn’t find any. 28So the Lord said to Moses:  
  
 ‘How long are they going to fail to listen to My commands and [obey] My laws?  
  
 29‘Look; I’ve given them this day as the Sabbath, and I gave them enough bread to last for two days on the 6th day. So from now on, they must all just sit there in their homes… Don’t allow anyone to leave his place on the 7th day!’  
  
30Well thereafter, the people started keeping the Sabbath on the 7th day.  
  
31The children of IsraEl called this [food], manna.  
  
It looked like white coriander seeds and tasted like crackers and honey.  
  
32Then Moses said:  
  
 ‘This is what Jehovah has commanded:  
  
 ‘We are to collect 1/3 of a bushel of manna and set it aside so that future generations can see the bread that you ate in the desert after Jehovah led you out of the land of Egypt.’  
  
33And he told Aaron:  
  
 ‘Take a gold pot and fill it with a full 1/3-of-a-bushel of manna, then store it away for God and keep it for future generations.’  
  
34So, just as the Lord told Moses, Aaron stored it away as a testimony.  
  
35As a result, the children of IsraEl ate manna for 40 years. They ate manna until they got to the land of Phoenicia.  
  
36Now, a homer (1/3 of a bushel) was 1/10th of an ephah (3 bath measures).