

“Bread from Heaven”

How the Manna is a type of our Lord Jesus Christ

Imagine it. The ground covered with free food every morning. It's enough to make any dieter give up the fight! And what's more, it just kept coming! All the way to the Promised Land, in fact. The Lord fed His people with the miracle bread called *Manna* - without doubt, one of the greatest demonstrations of His power in the Exodus story. But even better than the bread itself is the One it symbolises – THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. The Manna, written about in Exodus 16, is a glorious type of our Saviour in so many ways. Compare the list below and feed your hungry soul...

1. The Manna came from heaven (Ex.16:4) and so did the Lord Jesus Christ (John 6:33).
2. The Manna was a small thing (Ex.16:14) and the Lord Jesus was humble, coming from the little town of Bethlehem (Mic.5:4).
3. The Manna tasted of fresh oil (Num.11:8), a type of the Anointing of the Holy Spirit on the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 4:14).
4. The Manna sustained life; the Lord Jesus gives eternal life to all who come to Him (John 3:16 & 6:35; Rom.6:23).
5. The Israelites had to stoop to pick up the Manna, and sinners must come humbly to receive Christ (Luke 18:9-14).

6. The Manna was miraculously given, and so was the Lord Jesus Christ – by the Virgin birth (Luke 1:34-36).

7. The Manna was only available for a time and then it vanished like the morning dew (Ex.16:21). In a similar way, the Lord Jesus offers salvation during the Day of Grace...but one day that Day will end. *“Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near”* (Isaiah 55:6).

8. The Manna was sufficient for all (Ex.16:18); and the Lord Jesus is able to save all who come to Him (John 6:37-39).

9. The Manna was loathed by some of the Israelites (Num.11:6 & 21:5); tragically, the Lord Jesus is also rejected by many people (Phil.3:18).

10. The Manna was a mystery! When the people first saw it they asked, “What is it?” (Ex.16:15). Concerning the Lord Jesus, the Bible says: *“Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great...”* (1 Tim.3:16).

11. The Manna was white in colour (Ex.16:31). White symbolises righteousness in the Bible (Rev.19:7-8), and the Lord is just that. He also appeared to John with hair, “as white as snow” (Rev.1:14).

12. The Manna was sweet to taste (Ex.16:31), and the Bible says, “Taste and see that the Lord is good” (Ps.34:8).

13. The Manna was given to rebels (Ex.16:1-5), and the Lord Jesus came to save sinners (Rom.5:6-8).

14. The Manna came right where the people were, and so is the Lord Jesus available to us right where we are. As we read in the book of Romans: *“But what does it say? ‘The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,’ that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* (Rom.10:8-9).

15. The Manna was freely given. No Israelite paid a penny for it. So is the Lord Jesus and His salvation freely given: *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God...”* (Eph.2:8).

- Jon Ikin