**BREAD FROM HEAVEN**

Sunday School Lesson 5

*Wandering in the Wilderness*

Exodus 16

2/2/2025

**Lesson Review:** In our previous lesson, we looked at Israel’s test at the bitter waters of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Let’s review some specific truths from this lesson. 1. Before Israel reached Marah, they were already dealing with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Bible tells us that they went three days without water, and that means they immediately felt the extreme conditions of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. They did not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ along the journey because their hopefulness and trust in the Lord \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them. They likely knew water would be a problem from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but the journey to Marah brought the issue to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Marah tested Israel because it was supposed to their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Marah provided Israel with the water that they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but they couldn’t drink it. The bitterness of the waters caused them to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ their need. Marah was also God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to His people that the waters of this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are bitter. The Bible says that the Lord \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Israel there at Marah. He showed them that they would live \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ if they lived without Him. The Lord intentionally used a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to turn the bitter waters sweet. After Israel left Marah, they realized that God often has an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ close by. Israel’s total time in Marah was likely very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Notice that the next place was the place they had been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Marah would be, and it was only a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ journey away. For our new lesson, we will be looking at the bread that came from Heaven:

1. **THE WHOLE CONGREGATION OF ISRAEL MURMURED AGAINST THE LORD AGAIN.**
2. **Notice that it had been exactly a month since the children of Israel had left their homes and lives in Egypt.** *Exodus 16:1 And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. 12:18 In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.* It’s not a coincidence that Exodus 16 starts off by revealing to us how long it had been since Israel had left Egypt. The Passover happened on the fourteenth day of the first month, and they left some time in the morning or late night after this happened. This means that it had been exactly one month since their departure. It’s not entirely clear to us what Israel expected to happen in the wilderness, but they likely had ideas in their minds that the wilderness journey would be short. Modern estimates place the standard route through the wilderness as something that could happen on foot in several weeks to a month’s time. It was no more than 300 miles total. They weren’t moving nearly fast enough.
3. **Notice that while they murmured first at Moses and Aaron, it is clear that their real issue was with the Lord God.** *Exodus 16:2 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: 8b for that the Lord heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the Lord.* The people came to Moses to voice their displeasure against him and Aaron, but Moses understood that their real issue was against the Lord. They were hungry, and they did not see where their provisions were going to come from. It is reasonable to think that they had a decent supply of food from their herds with them, but they would not have wanted to totally deplete their food supply when going to settle into a new land. It was likely becoming clear to them that the trip was going to be longer than they expected it to be. This led to their collective murmuring against the Lord. It was agreed upon that things weren’t going right. Unfortunately, group opinion often gets it wrong.
4. **Notice that their irrational, emotional, and murmured responses continued to get worse with each passing moment of difficulty.** *Exodus 5:21b because ye have made our savour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.14:12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? 16:3a And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt,* Their complaints continued to escalate from their time in Egypt, to the trap at the Red Sea, to the bitter waters of Marah, and now to the lack of food in the wilderness of Sin. At first, they just talked about how much better it would have been to serve the Egyptians than to go on their wilderness journey. Now, they told Moses that they wished that God would have just killed them in Egypt. Each opportunity of testing seemed to lead to further discontentment.
5. **BEFORE THE LORD GAVE ISRAEL BREAD, HE WANTED TO REVEAL HIS GLORY TO THEM.**
6. **Notice that Israel was able to witness the glory of the Lord in the cloud.** *Exodus 16:7 And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the Lord; for that he heareth your murmurings against the Lord: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? 10 And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.* Moses told the people that they were about to see the glory of the Lord in the provision that He was going to give to them. Perhaps, they thought that this was just speaking figuratively, as they had not seen the glory of the Lord in this way. God literally revealed His presence to them through the cloud. While God had been leading them in a pillar of a cloud, the appearance of His Shekinah glory was something they had not witnessed at that point. God wanted there to be no doubt that this provision was coming directly from Him.
7. **Notice that the glory of the Lord was seen when the Living Bread came down from Heaven.** *Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. John 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.* The bread that was given in the wilderness was a picture of that Living Bread that came down from Heaven and supplied eternal life to all who would come and eat of the sacrifice of His crucified body. When Christ was born in Bethlehem, the glory of the Lord was revealed to shepherds in the same country. It should be very clear to us that God desires for us to see Him. He wants us to know that He is here. He wants us to know that He is the only One Who can provide what we need.
8. **THE LORD PROVIDED DAILY BREAD FROM HEAVEN TO TEST ISRAEL’S RELIANCE ON HIM.**
9. **Notice that the Lord provided them only what they needed to get through each day (and the Sabbath).** *Exodus 16:4 Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. 5 And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.* The Lord could have provided Israel with enough food for them to last a lifetime. Instead, He chose to only provide them with a certain rate every day. He told Moses that He was going to do this to prove them. He wanted to see whether they would walk in His law. He wanted to see if they would trust Him enough to rely upon His promise of daily provision. This is what the Lord wants our relationship to be with His Word. He wants for us to rely upon It every single day. He wants us to rely upon Him every day.
10. **Notice that the people tried to gather more than what the Lord had commanded them to.** *Exodus 16:20 Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them. 27 And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. 28 And the Lord said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?* Although Moses told them not to keep more than they needed, some of the people refused to listen. They selfishly wanted to store up everything that they could because they did not trust God and His promises. The same happened on the Sabbath. They wanted to take their needs into their own hands. Of course, their plan failed, as the manna was rotten and stank the next day. This shows us that our best to meet our own needs is empty and rotten without the hand of the Lord involved in it.
11. **THE BREAD WAS CALLED MANNA BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT.**
12. **Notice that Israel named the bread manna because they did not know what it was.** *Exodus 16:15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.* If you look up the word *manna,* you’ll find that it is a Hebrew phrase which essentially means “What is it?” This means that they had no idea what to call it. While the Bible describes it to us, we can take away from the name that Israel felt that there was nothing else they had seen that was like this food from Heaven. This provides us with a great application. There is nothing out there that compares to the provision that God gives. The wilderness gave Israel the opportunity to see the goodness and glory of God. It gave them the opportunity to see exactly what God could do for them.