

# Sanctuary Studies

by Jose Rivera

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## The Golden Pot of Manna *part three*

★ We examined the lessons of Manna from Exodus 16 in part one. In part two we examined the lessons of Manna from Numbers 11 and Deuteronomy 8. We saw clearly from part two that one of the main lessons drawn from Manna was that God desires us to realize that He is preparing His people for a greater work in the future. This knowledge should make us willing to co-operate with God for laying a good foundation. Spiritually, Physically, & Mentally God desires us to be His special people. That was what He was trying to accomplish in Israel of old; how will it be with Israel today? In this lesson of part three, we will learn yet more precious lessons. We will look at Christ own words and how He described the Manna!

### I. The fourth mention of Manna in the scriptures - **Joshua 5:12**

★ The Manna which fell miraculously for forty years, now ceased. God brought the Israelites out of Egypt while fruit were on the trees. See **Exodus 10:15**. He now brings them across the Jordan to possess the land while the fruit hung on the trees.. What a wonderful God we serve! When Israel left Egypt they had just partaken of the Passover lamb. As they are entering upon the Promise land, they partake of the same Passover lamb. What a wonderful God we serve! All who wished to partake of the Passover lamb must be circumcised. See **Exodus 12:48**. All the men were circumcised in **Joshua 5:7,8** before partaking of the Passover! What a wonderful God we serve! These things should teach us that God does not change. What He requires yesterday is still what He requires today.

★ Now concerning the Manna. God suffered them no hunger during this time of transition. The Manna only ceased when they came into a land having corn. The bible teaches us in **Philippians 4:19** that God shall supply our needs! One more important lesson can be learned from this single passage as well. God provided miraculously when no other means could be supplied, yet He will not do for us what He has asked us to do for ourselves. Now that they were to enter the Promised land, they like Adam, must grow their food in the sweat of their brows. Notice this principle from this quotation:

- *...the Lord does not propose to do the work which He has given man to do. He has given us reasoning powers and opportunities to educate the mind and manners. And after we have done all we can for ourselves, making the best use of the advantages within our reach, then we may look to God with earnest prayer to do by His Spirit that which we cannot do for ourselves, and we shall ever find in our Saviour power and efficiency. { 4T 405.3}*

### II. The fifth mention of Manna in the scriptures - **Nehemiah 9:15,20**

★ Here Nehemiah and all the children of Israel renew their covenant with God. They recount the experience and mercies of God throughout there history as a people beginning with Abraham. Well would it be for God's people today to recount the blessings of God toward His last day people. In the words of this chapter in Nehemiah, Manna is called the "bread of heaven". David also calls it the same in **Psalms 105:40** as he recounts God's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

### III. The seventh mention of Manna in the scriptures - **Psalms 78:24,25**

★ In this passage, David calls Manna the "corn of heaven" & "angels' food". The entire chapter expresses the desire of God to teach them of His Law and their stubborn experience all throughout their journeys. Notice the following quotation:

- *"The children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited: they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan." For forty years they were daily reminded by this miraculous provision, of God's unfailling care and tender love. In the words of the psalmist, God gave them "of the corn of heaven. Man did eat angels' food" ( Psalm 78:24, 25)—that is, food provided for them by the angels. Sustained by "the corn of heaven," they were daily taught that, having God's promise, they were as secure from want as if surrounded by fields of waving grain on the fertile plains of Canaan. { PP 297.1}*

#### IV. The eighth mention of Manna in the scriptures - **John 6**

- ★ If you recall lesson two, as well as the brief statement in the first introductory paragraph of this lesson, you will see the good that God was seeking to accomplish something great for His people by giving them a restricted diet. He was laying, a foundation for their health and for their posterity, and even more importantly, for the work he desired to accomplish through them to reach the other nations of the world. The principle simply put is this - Your faithfulness today is your prosperity tomorrow. This same principle is taught in **John 6:27**. We should not work to satisfy the here and now only, but rather for the hereafter.
- ★ Christ sought to teach the Jews that this was not a physical work, but a spiritual one. We must *believe* in the work of Christ, in us and for us! **Philippians 2:12,13**. The Jews then ask Christ for a sign in **John 6:30** even though Christ just fed the multitude. Their unbelief placed Moses on higher pedestal than Christ. Christ tells them that the Manna was not from Moses but from God. Christ then tells us what the *Manna* represented = **John 6:33**. Furthermore, Christ continues in **vs. 35** that He is this “*bread of life*”.
- ★ Later in the chapter in **vs. 48-51** Christ compares the manna of old as of something only temporal. He then explains that the true Manna which He Himself represents is eternal. He then connects the “*bread of life*” with the Gospel. Only by His death could he give life to the World. Hence, He says this bread is equal to His “*flesh*” which He gives for the life of the world! This was an appropriate lesson in light of the feast of the *Passover*, which **John 6:4** says was nigh. Christ begins to draw from the principle of eating spiritual food by transitioning to the eating of the *Paschal lamb* in **vs 53-58**. What does this mean? Christ tells us in **vs 63**. Notice the following quotation:
  - \* *To eat the flesh and drink the blood of Christ is to receive Him as a personal Saviour, believing that He forgives our sins, and that we are complete in Him. It is by beholding His love, by dwelling upon it, by drinking it in, that we are to become partakers of His nature. What food is to the body, Christ must be to the soul. Food cannot benefit us unless we eat it, unless it becomes a part of our being. So Christ is of no value to us if we do not know Him as a personal Saviour. A theoretical knowledge will do us no good. We must feed upon Him, receive Him into the heart, so that His life becomes our life. His love, His grace, must be assimilated. { DA 389.3}*
  - \* *Are you a follower of Christ? Then all that is written concerning the spiritual life is written for you, and may be attained through uniting yourself to Jesus. Is your zeal languishing? has your first love grown cold? Accept again of the proffered love of Christ. Eat of His flesh, drink of His blood, and you will become one with the Father and with the Son. { DA 389.5}*
  - \* *As our physical life is sustained by food, so our spiritual life is sustained by the word of God. And every soul is to receive life from God’s word for himself. As we must eat for ourselves in order to receive nourishment, so we must receive the word for ourselves. We are not to obtain it merely through the medium of another’s mind. We should carefully study the Bible, asking God for the aid of the Holy Spirit, that we may understand His word. We should take one verse, and concentrate the mind on the task of ascertaining the thought which God has put in that verse for us. We should dwell upon the thought until it becomes our own, and we know “what saith the Lord.” { DA 390.4}*
- What did Paul call this heavenly food? **1 Corinthians 10:3**
- What is the testimony of Jeremiah concerning this spiritual food? **Jeremiah 15:16**
- Which food did Job consider most important? **Job 23:12**
- What does David invite us to do? **Psalms 34:8**
- How does David describe the words of the Lord? **Psalms 119:103**