



# **Manna: a blessing, a test, or a curse?**

**Exodus 16:11-15**

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**Are you trusting the Lord  
wholeheartedly?**



# Exodus 16:11-15

**<sup>11</sup> The Lord said to Moses, <sup>12</sup> “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’” <sup>13</sup> That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. <sup>14</sup> When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.**



# Manna: a blessing, a test, or a curse?

- **It's a blessing**
- **It's a test**
- **It became a curse**
- **Who's call?**

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<sup>1</sup> The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, **on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt.** <sup>2</sup> In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

(16:1-2)



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<sup>3</sup> The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but **you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.**"

(16:3)



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<sup>14</sup> When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. <sup>15</sup> When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “**What is it?**” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “**It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat.**”

(16:14-15)



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<sup>16</sup> This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Everyone is to **gather as much as they need**. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.'" <sup>17</sup> The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little.

(16:16-18)





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<sup>18</sup> And when they measured it by the omer, **the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.** Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.

(16:16-18)



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<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. **In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.**

(16:4)



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<sup>19</sup> Then Moses said to them, **“No one is to keep any of it until morning.”** <sup>20</sup> However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them.

(16:19-20)



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<sup>23</sup> He said to them, “This is what the Lord commanded: **‘Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath rest, a holy sabbath to the Lord. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.’**”

(16:23-28)



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<sup>24</sup> So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. <sup>25</sup> “Eat it today,” Moses said, “because today is a sabbath to the Lord. You will not find any of it on the ground today. <sup>26</sup> **Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any.**” (16:23-28)



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**<sup>27</sup> Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.** <sup>28</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?”

**(16:23-28)**



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<sup>4</sup> The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup> We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. <sup>6</sup> **But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”**  
(Numbers 11:4-6)



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<sup>33</sup> Your children will be shepherds here for forty years, suffering for your unfaithfulness, until the last of your bodies lies in the wilderness. <sup>34</sup> For forty years—**one year for each of the forty days you explored the land**—you will suffer for your sins and know what it is like to have me against you.'

(Numbers 14:33-34)



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<sup>35</sup> **The Israelites ate manna forty years**, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.

(Exodus 16:35)



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<sup>11</sup> The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. <sup>12</sup> **The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land;** there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan. (Joshua 5:11-12)



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