

THE STORY OF MOSES

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

by

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There is a free paraphrase of Scripture passages in use quite frequently throughout this book in the interest of youthful minds.
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CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

MANNA

On the fifteenth day of the second month after leaving Egypt God's people, the Israelites, came to the wilderness of Sin which was between Elim and Sinai.

Were they happy and joyful? They should have been, but instead, they were complaining to Moses and Aaron because they were hungry. They said they wished they had died in Egypt where they had plenty to eat. They accused Moses of bringing them into the wilderness to kill them.

God heard all of this complaining and showed His great love and patience by telling Moses that He would rain bread from heaven. The people could gather a portion every day and He would do this to see if they would walk in His way.

He also said that on the sixth day they should gather twice as much food. There would be no bread sent down on the Sabbath day.

Moses and Aaron told these things to the children of Israel and also that God had heard their complaints and would send them meat in the evening and bread in the morning. He reminded them that they were finding fault with God rather than with Aaron and him.

Moses asked Aaron to call the people to come near and stand before the Lord.

They came near and looked toward the wilderness and saw the glory of the Lord in the cloud.

You see, they were journeying toward home and looking ahead. They would never have seen the glory of the Lord by looking back toward Egypt.

So it is with Christians today. We will never have God's blessing when we look back into the world; only when we look ahead, even though it is a wilderness. Sometimes God's glory shines brightest when the place in which we live seems most bare.

“And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp; and in the morning dew lay round about the host. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground” (Exodus 16:14).

When the children of Israel saw it they called it manna, for they did not really know what it was until Moses explained to them that it was the bread which God had sent.

Moses told them to gather an omer, about four quarts, for each person in the household, so that each house had just the right amount to feed the members for the day. None was to be kept overnight.

Some of the Israelites were like some folk now and were not willing to trust God for the next day's supply. They kept part of the manna over until morning only to find it had become wormy and sour. Moses was angry because of their disobedience.

The manna was found on the ground fresh every morning and when the sun grew hot all that had not been gathered melted away.

Every sixth day they gathered twice as much to last over the Sabbath and it kept perfectly, not one bit spoiled.

Some wanted to do their own way and did not gather for the Sabbath.

When they went out to get it on the Sabbath morning there wasn't any, and God asked Moses how long they were going to refuse to keep His commandments and His laws.

God said the Sabbath had been given to them for a day of rest and that they should observe it according to His Word.

The food, which they called manna, was white, like coriander seed and tasted like crackers and honey.

God commanded Moses to gather an omer of the manna and put it in a box. They were to save it to show to their grandchildren food God had provided for them in the wilderness.

The children of Israel lived upon this food for forty years, until the time that they came into the land of Canaan.

When the Lord Jesus was talking to the multitude on the shores of Galilee, He told them that as the manna was sent down from heaven to feed the Hebrew nation in the wilderness, so, He was the true Bread of Life come down from heaven.

He said, “Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness and are dead. I am the living bread which came down from heaven, if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever.”

How can we feed on Christ?

It is by loving Him, reading our Bibles, and doing His will every day.

~ end of chapter 18 ~

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