



SPRING-TIME DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS

Carstairs-Bancroft United Church

July 11, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

CHOCOLATE SNOWFLAKES

Moses said to them, "It is the bread the Lord has given you to eat."

Exodus 16:15

READ Exodus 16:4-7, 13-17

Residents of Olten, Switzerland, were surprised by a shower of chocolate shavings covering the entire town. The ventilation system at a nearby chocolate factory had malfunctioned, sending cocoa into the air and dusting the area with confectionary goodness. The chocolate coating sounds like a dream come true for chocoholics!

While chocolate doesn't adequately provide for one's nutritional needs, God supplied the Israelites with heavenly showers that did. As they traveled through the desert, they began to grumble about the variety of food they'd left behind in Egypt. In response, God said He would "rain down bread from heaven" to sustain them (Exodus 16:4). When the morning dew dried up each day, a thin flake of food remained. Approximately two million Israelites were instructed to gather as much as they needed that day. For forty years of their desert wanderings, they were nourished by God's supernatural provision in manna.

We know little about manna except that it was "white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey" (v. 31). Though manna may not sound as appealing as a steady diet of chocolate, the sweetness of God's provision for His people is clear. Manna points us to Jesus who described Himself as the "bread of life" (John 6:48) that sustains us daily and assures us of life eternal (v. 51).

By Kirsten Holmberg

PRAY & REFLECT

Father God, thank You for providing for my deepest need in Jesus and sustaining me every day. Amen

How has God provided for you? How does Jesus being the "bread of life" encourage you to trust Him?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Having crossed the Red Sea, which was the final act of their liberation from Egypt, the Israelites transitioned on to Sinai. The elements of the transition include a season of worship at the Red Sea (15:1-21), cleansing the bitter waters at Marah (vv. 22-27), God's provision of manna and quail (ch. 16) and water from the rock (17:1-7), a battle against the Amalekites (vv. 8-16), a leadership summit with Jethro (ch. 18), and their arrival at Sinai (ch. 19). At Sinai, God reintroduced Himself to His chosen people, and Israel further transitioned from being a massive extended family to becoming a nation with laws. – By **Bill Crowder**

Used with permission