

Doctrine of Manna

1. Manna is used in Scripture both figuratively and literally.

1.1 We first learn of manna from the Old Testament: Exo 16:14-35; Num 11:1-18; Deu 8:3, 6 and Jos 5:12.

Exo 16:14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

Exo 16:15 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.

Exo 16:16 This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer (about two quarts) for each person you have in your tent.'"

Exo 16:17 The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little.

Exo 16:18 And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

Exo 16:19 Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."

Exo 16:20 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.

Exo 16:21 Each morning everyone gathered as much as he needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away.

Exo 16:22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much--two omers for each person--and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses.

Exo 16:23 He said to them, "This is what the LORD commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of 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.'"

Exo 16:24 So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it.

Exo 16:25 "Eat it today," Moses said, "because today is a Sabbath to the LORD. You will not find any of it on the ground today.

Exo 16:26 Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."

Exo 16:27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

Exo 16:28 Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?"

Exo 16:29 Bear in mind that the LORD has given you the Sabbath; that is why on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days. Everyone is to stay where he is on the seventh day; no one is to go out."

Exo 16:30 So the people rested on the seventh day.

Exo 16:31 The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.

Exo 16:32 Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: "Take an omer of manna and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt."

Exo 16:33 So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come."

Exo 16:34 As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony, that it might be kept.

Exo 16:35 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.

Num 11:1 Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.

Num 11:2 When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down.

Num 11:3 So that place was called Taberah (the Hebrew word for burning), because fire from the LORD had burned among them.

Num 11:4 The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat!

Num 11:5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost--also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.

Num 11:6 But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

Num 11:7 The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin.

Num 11:8 The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a handmill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into cakes. And it tasted like something made with olive oil.

Num 11:9 When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.

Num 11:10 Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled.

Num 11:11 He asked the LORD, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me?

Num 11:12 Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their forefathers?

Num 11:13 Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!'

Num 11:14 I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for me.

Num 11:15 If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now--if I have found favor in your eyes--and do not let me face my own ruin."

Num 11:16 The LORD said to Moses: "Bring me seventy of Israel's elders who are known to you as leaders and officials among the people. Have them come to the Tent of Meeting, that they may stand there with you.

Num 11:17 I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is on you and put the Spirit on them. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone.

Num 11:18 "Tell the people: 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat it.

Deu 8:3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Deu 8:16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

Jos 5:12 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 of the produce of Canaan.

2. Let's now see what analogous truths we can learn from manna.

2.1 Manna was used to teach the importance of taking in the Word of God. Deu 8:3 compared to Mat 4:4.

Deu 8:3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Mat 4:4 But Jesus answered and said, It is written "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

2.2 Doctrine is only provided in amounts commensurate with positive volition; only believers, however, can understand post-salvation doctrine. First you need an appetite: you must first want to hear, and then the manna is delivered.

2.2.1 In writing to the church at Pergamum in Asia Minor (symbolic of the period A.D. 300 to 800 when the church marries the world), John writes in Rev 2:17, "hidden manna will be given to those who overcome."

Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna ...

2.2.2 The formula for overcoming can be found in 1Jo 5:5.

1Jo 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

2.3 Doctrine, like manna, can either be a source of blessing or the object of cursing.

Exo 16:19 Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."

Exo 16:20 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

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Exo 16:27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

Num 11:1 Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp.

Num 11:2 When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down.

Num 11:3 So that place was called Taberah (*meaning to kindle a fire*), because fire from the LORD had burned among them.

Num 11:4 The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat ...

Num 11:6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes ...

Num 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

Deu 11:26 See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse--

Deu 11:27 the blessing if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today;

Deu 11:28 the curse if you disobey the commands of the LORD your God and turn from the way that I command you today by following other gods, which you have not known.

2.4 Manna was one of two grace foods from God to Israel during their exodus from Egypt; both were to sustain them physically during their trek to the Promised Land. An overview of the two food gifts can be found in Exo 16:12-15.

Exo 16:12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God.

Exo 16:13 And it came to pass, that at the end of the day the **quails** came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

Exo 16:14 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.

Exo 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.

2.5 Manna was used to test Israel. The same is true today for the believer--manna, like the Word, tastes good to some and bitter to others. The test today: does doctrine taste good to you or are you one of the "unproven ones"?

Deu 8:16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

Exo 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 not.

2.6 There are negative believers in every age; to some of the Exodus generation the manna was bitter, and to others it tasted like honey.

2.7 So also today the Word of God is appreciated by some, and for others it is in varying degrees unappreciated, just as His servants who deliver the Word today are unappreciated, abused and disabused.

Num 11:6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes ...

Num 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

Num 11:11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favor in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?

2.8 As manna was taken for granted, so also is the Word of God. In Psalm 78 Israel's rejection of manna is used in part to describe Israel's reversionism.

Psa 78:1 O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

Psa 78:2 I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old--

Psa 78:3 what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.

Psa 78:4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.

Psa 78:5 He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children,

Psa 78:6 so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children.

Psa 78:7 Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

Psa 78:8 They would not be like their forefathers--a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.

Psa 78:9 The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows, turned back on the day of battle;

Psa 78:10 they did not keep God's covenant and refused to live by his law.

Psa 78:11 They forgot what he had done, the wonders he had shown them.

Psa 78:12 He did miracles in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.

Psa 78:13 He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand firm like a wall.

Psa 78:14 He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night.

Psa 78:15 He split the rocks in the desert and gave them water as abundant as the seas;

Psa 78:16 he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

Psa 78:17 But they continued to sin against him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High.

Psa 78:18 They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved.

Psa 78:19 They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the desert?

Psa 78:20 When he struck the rock, water gushed out, and streams flowed abundantly.

But can he also give us food? Can he supply meat for his people?"

Psa 78:21 When the LORD heard them, he was very angry; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel,

Psa 78:22 for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.

Psa 78:23 Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens;

Psa 78:24 he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.

Psa 78:25 Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.

Psa 78:26 He let loose the east wind from the heavens and led forth the south wind by his power.

Psa 78:27 He rained meat down on them like dust, flying birds like sand on the seashore.

Psa 78:28 He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents.

Psa 78:29 They ate till they had more than enough, for he had given them what they craved.

Psa 78:30 But before they turned from the food they craved, even while it was still in their mouths,

Psa 78:31 God's anger rose against them; he put to death the sturdiest among them, cutting down the young men of Israel.

Psa 78:32 In spite of all this, they kept on sinning; in spite of his wonders, they did not believe.

2.9 Manna was used as a teaching aid in the tabernacle and temple liturgy.

2.9.1 They were to take some manna and put it in an urn and place it in the Ark of the Covenant, and God would preserve it.

Exo 16:32 And Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt.

Exo 16:33 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.

2.10 It is used as part of a teaching example in Heb 8:10-9:4. Here we find a record of where it was kept; i.e., in the Ark of the Covenant.

2.10.1 In this series of verses the better covenant is contrasted with the inferior Mosaic law, and that very best of covenants to Israel was and still is the New Covenant.

Heb 8:10 This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

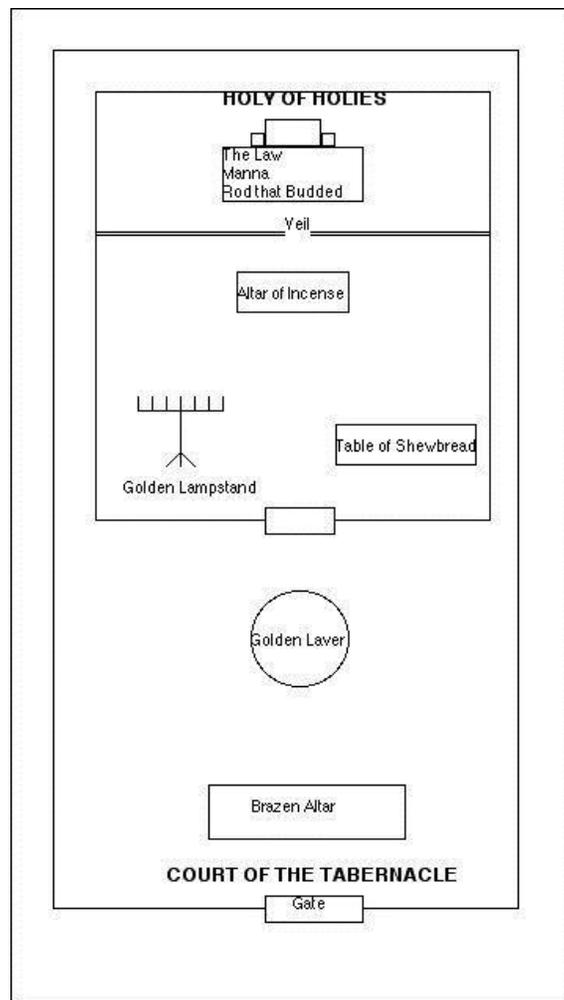
Heb 8:11 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Heb 8:12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Heb 8:13 By calling this covenant new, he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear ...

Heb 9:3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,

Heb 9:4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.



2.11 Joshua teaches "if Israel is to eat they are to work"; once Israel got into the land the free ride was over.

Jos 5:12 And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

2.11.1 Upon this principle is "piggy-backed" the New Testament truth, "he who does not work does not eat."

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

2Th 3:11 For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

2Th 3:12 Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

2.12 Negative volition often brings discipline.

Num 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

Num 21:6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

2.12.1 So also today there is a judgment for negative believers who reject His manna.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Rev 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Rev 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

2Pe 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

2Pe 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

2Pe 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

2Pe 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

2Pe 2:11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

2Pe 2:12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

2Pe 2:13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;

2Pe 2:14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

2Pe 2:15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

2Pe 2:16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

2Pe 2:17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

2Pe 2:18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

2Pe 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

2Pe 2:20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

2.13 Just as God has rules related to the acquisition of manna, so also has He rules concerning the gathering of doctrine today.

Heb 10:19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

Heb 10:20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body,
Heb 10:21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

Heb 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Heb 10:24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Heb 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Heb 13:7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

2.14 Manna unharvested vanished just as doctrine left on the printed page cannot be used; it must be in the soul before the enemy attacks. Additionally, doctrine will not remain in the soul without consistent intake. You must replace that which you forget, or, said another way, the rate of replacement must exceed the rate of forgetting.

2.14.1 Doctrine must be in the soul if it is to be of value in following the colors to the high ground.

2.15 Manna provided perfect nourishment for the body, just as doctrine provides perfectly for the needs of the believer.

2.16 Manna, like doctrine, has been customized for the needs of everyone. It totally satisfies the hunger; no more and no less.

Exo 16:18 And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

2.17 Manna deposited in the Ark of the Covenant for the training of future generations, did not spoil but was preserved.

Exo 16:33 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.

2.18 For maximum benefit, doctrine, like manna, needs to be eaten daily.

Exo 16:12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God.

Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

3. In summary, manna was used prototypically for the Messiah Christ and His Word.

Joh 6:31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

Joh 6:32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

Joh 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

Joh 6:34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

Joh 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Luk 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.