

TEXTUAL ISSUES EXODUS 16 (NAMES 16)

CONTEXT (NAMES 15 BY VALERA REYNOLDS)...

- Q Who is the warrior?
Q Whose hand stretched out over the water to destroy the Egyptian armies?

Q Valera: What impressed you the most about Moses' song to the Lord God?

Exodus 16:1-12. *Grumble honestly*. After escaping the Egyptians, the whole community grumbled against Moses & Aaron: "If we'd only died by Yahweh's hand in Egypt! There we had all the food we wanted, but you two have brought us to the desert to starve!"

Yahweh, of course, had an answer. Telling Moses...

I will rain down bread from heaven.⁹ Each day people will gather enough for the day. Let's see if they can learn—daily are they to gather enough for each day, but on the sixth day, they are to gather and prepare it for two days.

Moses & Aaron told the people, reminding them that in the evening you will learn it is was the Lord God Yahweh who brought them out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of Yahweh—Why? Because He has heard your grumbling against Him. And, for the record, who are we that you would grumble against us? Meat in the evening and bread in the morning, because He has heard your grumbling against Him. Who are we? You're not kvetching with us, but with the Lord God Himself!

At Moses' direction, during Aaron's speech, sure enough, there was the glory of the Lord God Yahweh Almighty appearing in the cloud!

- Q Against whom did Aaron & Moses ascribe the grumbling? [Compare verse 2 & 7]
Q Against what or whom have you grumbled, instead of grumbling honestly with the Lord God? Why is better to grumble directly with the Lord God?

EXODUS 16:1-12

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. ²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³The 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." ⁴Then 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. ⁵On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" ⁸Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD." ⁹Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" ¹⁰While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, ¹²"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.'"

⁹*bread from heaven*. Jesus called himself "the true bread from heaven" (John 6:32), "the bread of God" (John 6:33), "the bread of life" (John 6:35,48), "the living bread that came down from heaven" (John 6:51)—all in the spiritual sense (John 6:63). For a similar application see Deuteronomy 8:3 and Jesus' quotation of same in Matthew 4:4. —Adapted from Compton's Interactive NIV © 1996.

Exodus 16:13-20. *Daily bread, daily meat.*

Sure enough, with evening came quail, covering the camp, and in the morning there was the usual layer of dew, but on this morning as the dew evaporated, wonderful frost-like flakes remained.

"Manna,"¹⁰ they said to each other.

Moses made it clear—it is the bread the Lord God Yahweh has provided. He commands each to gather as much as you need—take a half gallon for each person you have in your home.

They did as were told—but some gathered too much, others too little. BUT, when they measured it by the half-gallon, those who gathered too much did not have too much, and those who gathered too little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as God needed him to have.

Moses reminded them to keep none until the next day. Of course, some ignored Moses and kept the manna until morning. It was full of maggots and stunk. Needless to say, Moses was not happy.

Q Why was Moses angry? To what extent should have Moses been angry with us?

Q When did the Lord God provide you manna? In what form did it come? How did you know it was from Him?

Q Why are we to pray, then, for our daily bread? Why not tomorrow's bread? Next year's bread?

Q What manna from the Lord God has begun to spoil and stink because you held on to it too long? [Hint: What happens to a story untold, unshared, and un-lived? Complacency is the death of passion and purpose.]

EXODUS 16:13-20

That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

¹⁵When 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. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.' "

¹⁷The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. ¹⁸And 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.

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

²⁰However, 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.

¹⁰ The word *manna* means literally, "What is it?" recalling the Israelites' first reaction to it (verse 15). Manna is a clear example of the Israelites' enforced dependence on God; they had to rely on Him every day for 40 years, just to survive. God's provision of manna made greed impossible: it could not be hoarded and was distributed with precise equity (verses 17-21). Quail, referred to here and in Numbers 11, still migrate across the Sinai peninsula, flying in great flocks between Europe and Arabia. Exhausted by their long flight, they roost on the ground or in low bushes at night, making capture easy. —Adapted from Compton's Interactive NIV © 1996.

Exodus 16:21-36. *Number Four*. So, each morning everyone gathered as much as needed—the sun’s heat melted the remainder away. And on the sixth day of each week, 1 gallon of manna was gathered to last through the Sabbath, the day of rest, made holy to Yahweh. Moses commanded them to cook what you need for the day, and save the rest to keep it until morning.

Sure enough, on the morning of the Sabbath, the food neither stunk nor became engorged with maggots. Eat it today, said Moses, because today is a Sabbath to the Lord God Yahweh. There is no manna found on the ground today. Thus, six days are you to gather, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any manna.

Of course, some ignored Moses and went out on the Sabbath to gather manna—it wasn’t there. Surprise, surprise, surprise.

Yahweh was not happy:

How long will you all refuse to keep My commandments? My instructions? Bear in mind, Yahweh has given you the Sabbath.¹¹ On the seventh day, no one is to go out.

And so, on the seventh day, the people rested.

So they called it “What is it?” White like coriander seed, what is it tasted like wafers sweetened with honey. Moses instructed: This is what the Lord God Yahweh has commanded: *Take a half-gallon of manna and keep it for generations to come so they can see the bread I the Lord God gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt.*

So a half-gallon sized jar of manna was preserved for generations to observe. And there it was placed, right in front of the Testimony. For forty years we ate God’s bread in the desert, until we reached the Promised Land, Canaan.

EXODUS 16:21-36

Each morning everyone gathered as much as he needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. ²²On 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. ²³He 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.' "

²⁴So they saved it until morning, as Moses commanded, and it did not stink or get maggots in it. 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. ²⁶Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."

²⁷Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none. ²⁸Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? ²⁹Bear 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."

³⁰So the people rested on the seventh day.

³¹The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey. ³²Moses 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.' "

³³So 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."

³⁴As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony, that it might be kept. ³⁵The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.

³⁶(An omer is one tenth of an ephah.)

¹¹We need to learn not to ignore the fourth commandment. “The Sabbath has always disturbed believers. We’ve demoted, altered, abrogated, and challenged its place in the heart of the Lord God. From the very beginning (Genesis 2:3) God set aside a day of rest; i.e., He made it holy, setting it aside and designing it, like all His commands, to help people be and stay closer to God.” See more at <http://TheScoop.DThomasPorter.com/pushes-from-the-paraclete/the-nine-commandments-of-the-decalogue.html>

- Q What is spiritually pragmatic about eating the same thing, every day, every year, for forty years?
- Q What is the purpose of keeping Sabbath?
- Q How should we observe Sabbath? On what day should it be observed? And, for those who must work on the Sabbath day?

LEARNING NOT TO IGNORE THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT¹²

The Sabbath has always disturbed believers. We've demoted, altered, abrogated, and challenged its place in the heart of the Lord God. From the very *beginning* (Genesis 2:3) God set aside a day of rest; i.e., He made it holy, setting it aside and designing it, like all His commands, to help people be and stay closer to God. But...

- Modern believers have demoted God's commandment to an anachronism of Judaism.
- Reformation believers altered the fourth commandment by stipulating believers observe the Sabbath on the first day of the week, regardless of the witness of Scripture.
- Pharisee believers abrogated the Sabbath; i.e., obedience became an artform of religious chest-beating, rather than a means of spiritual refreshment, a day made for humans (Mark 2:27).
- Pre-Law believers challenged its observation (Exodus 16:23ff); to say nothing of those who had the fully articulated Law (cf., Nehemiah 13:15ff; John 9:13ff).
- The Sabbath is important to the Lord God. Consequences for violation were, and are, dramatic. When the Sabbath was not observed under the Law of Moses, death could result (Numbers 15:32ff). Today, the consequences of failing to observe Sabbath are even more obvious—and deadly—stress has been clearly linked to heart disease, asthma, obesity, diabetes, headaches, depression, GI problems, and Alzheimer's (see <http://tinyurl.com/3zd9x7p>)

My Jesus observed the Sabbath; thus, it is clearly part of our Christian heritage (c.f., Hebrews 4:9). Why did the Lord God create the Sabbath principle? God loves us; He deserves to be glorified while we're here on earth and beyond. It's difficult to do so when dead, coughing, fat, depressed, and/or with dementia.

And for those of you like me from Missouri, nothing shows you more about how central the Lord God is to your life when you stop everything and think on Him. It's hard.

We're all so wrapped up in doing, doing, doing. And then we're done, or are we? Sabbath teaches us to see there's more to living than doing. And, ironically, our doing becomes more abundant. A glimpse of what's to come?

[God is smart](#). He doesn't desire our obedience to fulfill some fascist, narcissistic personality. All of God's commands are designed to bring us closer to Him; i.e., to be blessed by Him. When we are closer to Him, He can be glorified, and we get to bask in that glory. Observe Sabbath—Jesus did.

—From The Scoop (TheScoop.DThomasPorter.com)



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¹²Taken from <http://TheScoop.DThomasPorter.com/pushes-from-the-paraclete/the-nine-commandments-of-the-decalogue.html>

16:1 *from Elim . . . to the Desert of Sin.* See Numbers 33:10-11. The Desert of Sin was in southwestern Sinai ("Sin" is probably derived from "Sinai") in the region today called Debbet er-Ramleh.

fifteenth day of the second month. Exactly one month had passed since Israel's exodus from Egypt (see 12:2,6,29,31).

16:3 *meat.* We craved additional items of food from Egypt—see Numbers 11:4-9:

The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. ⁶But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!" ⁷The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. ⁸The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill 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. ⁹When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.

16:4 *go out each day and gather enough for that day.* Possibly the background for Jesus' model petition in Matthew 6:11; Luke 11:3 for daily bread.

16:5 *sixth day . . . twice as much as they gather on the other days.* To provide for "the seventh day, the Sabbath" (v. 26), "a day of rest" (v. 23). See v. 29.

16:10 *glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.* See 24:15-17; see also 13:21.

16:13 *quail came.* For a similar incident see Numbers 11:31-33.

16:18 See 2Corinthians 8:15, where Paul quotes the heart of the verse as an illustration of Christians who share with each other what they possess.

16:23 *Sabbath.* The first occurrence of the word itself, though the principle of the seventh day as a day of rest and holiness is set forth in the account of creation (see Genesis 2:3).

16:33 *jar.* Said in Hebrews 9:4 to be made of gold.

16:34 *Testimony.* Anticipates the later description of the tablets containing the Ten Commandments as the "two tablets of the Testimony" (31:18; 32:15; 34:29), which gave their name to the "ark of the Testimony" (25:22; 26:33) in which they were placed (see 25:16,21) along with the jar of manna (see Hebrews 9:4; see also Revelation 2:17).



16:35 *ate manna forty years . . . until they reached . . . Canaan.* The manna stopped at the time the Israelites celebrated their first Passover in Canaan (see Joshua 5:10-12).

¹³Adapted, corrected, and revised by D. Thomas Porter from Compton's Interactive NIV © 1996.