

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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THE TRUE MANNA

The Greek word for “shadow” is σκιά (skiá) #4639. Properly defined this term means: a rough outline of the full and perfect image; a mere representation of something.

It’s interesting to note that the Old Testament was/is filled with shadows of things found in the New Testament (cf. **Hebrews 8:1-5; 10:1-4**). One such shadow is the manna God gave the children of Israel after they made the exodus from the fiery furnace of Egyptian bondage. How do I know? Keep reading.

On one occasion Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world” (**John 6:32-33**).

Did you notice what Jesus did? He contrasted Himself (the true manna – the reality) with the physical manna (the shadow) Jehovah gave the Israelites in the wilderness.

Now let’s notice some specific ways in which the manna God gave the children of Israel was a “rough outline” or “mere representation” of the giving of Christ Jesus, His beloved Son.

- The physical manna came from heaven (**Exodus 16:4**). So did the true manna (**John 3:31; 8:23**).
- The physical manna was desperately needed (**Exodus 16:1-3**). Christ, the true manna, was desperately needed (**Romans 5:6-10; John 14:6**).
- The physical manna was given; not earned (**Nehemiah 9:15**). Christ, the true manna, was given. The gift must be accepted via obedience, but it can never be earned (**John 3:16; Titus 3:1-5**).
- The physical manna was given to predominately unthankful people (**Numbers 21:5**). Christ, the true manna, was often unappreciated by the masses during His time on the earth. Indeed, the only thing the multitudes gave Jesus was a cross (**Matthew 27:20-22**). Still today very few really are thankful for Christ.
- The physical manna was not deserved. Indeed, the folks to whom it was given were many times rebellious and hostile towards both God and His servants (**Numbers 14:1-4**). The same may be said today. There is simply no way that anyone “deserves” the grace that is found in Christ, the true manna (**2 Timothy 2:1; Romans 5:6-8; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 Peter 3:15**).
- The physical manna brought satisfaction; i.e. it brought with it contentment (**Psalms 105:40**). Christ, the true manna, brings contentment and satisfaction. Yes, the true bread from heaven cures all our “hunger pains” for the “real life” (**John 10:10; Matthew 11:28-30; Mark 10:29-30**).
- The physical manna was in reach of all persons (**Exodus 16:14-16**). Christ, the true manna, was given for all men (**Hebrews 2:9**) and is in reach of all accountable persons who obey Him (**Mark 16:15-16; Hebrews 5:9**).
- Eventually the blessings afforded by physical manna were no longer available (**Exodus 16:16-21**). So too with Christ, the true manna. There is coming a day in which God will judge the world in righteousness by Christ Jesus (**Acts 17:30-31**). If, on that occasion, one has failed to take advantage of the blessing of the true manna, there will be no hope for heaven (**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**).

Perhaps there are more parts to this shadow. See if you can discover any.