

What is the Manna that God gave to Moses and the Israelites in the desert?

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Until today many pastors and men of God still don't really know what this manna symbolizes in the context of God's plan. It will be very useful if you realize that the Old Testament enacted everything spiritual in a worldly form so as to simply explain the purpose of His spiritual concepts in a material way so that everyone can understand. Once you have this special insight, then reading the Bible will become very easy. Let's look at the Manna from a human perspective. It is a form of food that comes down from heaven and is given every morning to the people of Israel to sustain their hunger. Basically, it is a survival food.

Exodus 16:14-27

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

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. 16 This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Everyone is to gather as much as they need. Take an omer[a] for each person you have in your tent.'"

17 The Israelites did as they were told; some gathered much, some little. 18 And when they measured it by the omer, the one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little. Everyone had gathered just as much as they needed.

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

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.

21 Each morning everyone gathered as much as they needed, and when the sun grew hot, it melted away. 22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers[b] for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. 23 He said to them, "This is what the LORD commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of sabbath 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.'"

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

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

Here are the conditions in which the Israelites are to treat the Manna.

1. The manna comes from heaven in a form of raining down.
2. The manna is fresh every morning.
3. They are to collect just enough for each person's individual consumption.
4. They are not to leave any for tomorrow. They are to eat of it the same day.
5. They are not to over collect for their own consumption.
6. On the Sabbath there shall find no manna, it's a rest day.

I have heard the Manna being explained as the bread of communion which Jesus said to do it in remembrance of him. This is an once a while affair and it is thus not given every morning. So, the communion bread of Jesus is not the Manna. It didn't come from heaven; the communion bread of Jesus is an earthly bread being eaten to remember Jesus as the Bread of Life, which essentially is the Word of God. The Manna which God gave to the Israelites represents God's daily Rhema Word that He will issue from His throne to each believer individually, according to their needs and is fresh for the day. The Rhema Word must be used that day, if it is used for tomorrow, it will not be effective as it will turn rotten the next day. If that Rhema word is utilized or consumed the same day it will achieve its life sustaining purpose. The Rhema Word is the bread that came from heaven and its being depicted as the Manna that falls from heaven. The Rhema is not the Logos, the Rhema is the Word of God that comes from His mouth. Therefore, the Rhema Word or Manna is definitely not the bread of the communion with Jesus.

Matthew 4:4

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4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'^[a]"

Here in Matthew 4:4, it means man shall not live by the logos bread alone or Bible but also by the Manna from heaven. The Manna from heaven is the Voice of God. It is this Rhema that enables the true believers to live an overcoming life. The Logos can become the Rhema only when it is activated by the Holy Spirit of God, if it isn't then its yesterday's Manna. It can't be used for any dynamic situation in your life, it can only be used for a constant principle in your life. Not everyone can collect this fresh Manna from heaven, those who are not sensitive to the Spirit of God won't be able to discern the Rhema Word of God easily. That's why many so-called deaf Christians can't lead an overcoming life, they keep struggling. Even when God speaks, they still can't realize it. Without this fresh manna from heaven, their lives are going in cycles of success and failure. Sometimes it works if they applied the right logos and sometimes the logos don't work. That's because the logos is not the right Bread of Life that they must consume. Logos are mostly not Rhema, to use the logos you have to use your own understanding to pick the right verse to suit the right conditions. While the Rhema is Holy Spirit inspired from Jesus.

John 5:39-40

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39 You study[a] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

You can only get the Rhema from Jesus and not through just reading the Bible only, but God can also use the scripture by making it a Rhema or Manna; when required. That's what these scripture means. Thus, it's important to learn how to get this Manna by learning how to hear from God. Your Christian Life can only grow as much as your pastor's own wisdom can teach you. You can never grow greater than your teachers. So, it is important to change human teachers every 7 years. Whatever your pastors can believe then that will be his anointing, if he can't believe that you can hear the Voice of God, then you'll never be able to learn to hear. But whatever the Bible says you can do, believe in that, and you shall accomplish whatever you can believe.