

ARE YOU CONTENT? – fight feelings of disappointment? Unfulfilled? Failure?
BLESSINGS OF GOD ARE FOR SOMEONE ELSE, MAYBE / BUT NOT FOR YOU

Nation of Israel / Redeemed out of Egypt / Mighty God – 10 Plagues / Enemies Drowned
WONDERFUL PROMISE OF A BRIGHT FUTURE / for them and their children
BUT – DESPITE ALL THIS – THEY ARE NOT CONTENT

1. Struggle for Contentment 2. Signs of Contentment 3. Source of Contentment

1. The Struggle for Contentment

Continuous Theme – Patience of God / Reason they’re called CHILDREN of Israel
NOT YET THE MATURE ADULTS of Israel / SPIRITUAL BABIES – GROWING

SAME GOD / SAME PATIENCE / SAME WEAKNESSES IN US // STRUGGLE

Romans 15.4 “For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

a. Tired and Hungry

v. 1 “fifteenth day of the second month” 12.1 PASSOVER “tenth day of the first month”

BEEN TRAVELING FOR OVER ONE MONTH / WALKING AND CAMPING

16.1 “desert of Sin e.g. Sinai” – Eighth Place THEY HAVE STOPPED & CAMPED

16.3 “you have brought us out into the desert to STARVE the entire assembly to death”

TIREDDNESS EXPOSES THEIR FOOLISHNESS / Contradicts God’s Clear Promises

SOMETIMES THE MOST SPIRITUAL THING YOU CAN DO IS GO TO BED or EAT

b. Fears about the Future

v. 2 “In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron”

Given food and supplies from Egyptians // ONE MILLION PEOPLE / Supplies Finished

430 Years in Egypt / NEVER TRAVELED to SINAI PENINSULA

Taken “Out of their Comfort Zone” / Found no Milk and Honey in desolate Desert

WE HAVE ENTIRE BIBLE TO READ – THEY DID NOT
AND EVEN WITH THE ENTIRE BIBLE / WE STILL HAVE REAL DOUBTS & FEARS

c. Exaggerate the Past

v. 3 “in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted”

WHY SAT AROUND POTS / they were SLAVES – Group Meal from Masters

LITTLE DETAIL THEY FORGOT / Ate bound in Chains / NO CHOICE

They preferred their bondage in Egypt to their present state in the wilderness; for they could not have been in a state of absolute want, as they had brought an abundance of flocks and herds with them out of Egypt.

REMEMBER HOW WONDERFUL IT WAS BEFORE I WAS BELIEVER?
Mercy of God we FORGET THE BITTER DETAILS / Selective Memory

d. Ignorant of God

v. 2 “grumbled against Moses and Aaron” / JUST CRAZY IDEA OF 2 MEN!

v. 6 “In the evening you will know it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt”

Verse 3 represents a tragic misconception of God. The people wish that they would have died by the Lord's "hand" in Egypt. But there are nine references in the first 15 chapters of Exodus to the Lord's "hand" rescuing them from Egypt. Exodus 13:14: "With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery." The Lord here is not seen as the helper, redeemer or giver that he is but as a killer.

How do we picture the Lord? The flesh in us would picture him in a way similar to that of the Israelites, as someone who is out to get us. These are the pictures that our flesh flashes into our minds. And when we believe these pictures, we see the hand that would help us as the hand that would kill us. This is a tragic misconception.

v. 9 “Say to the Israelite community, Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling

HAVE YOU ever SAID SOMETHING ABOUT SOMEONE / FOUND THEM LISTENING

v. 10 “the whole Israelite community looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud”

v 11 I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, & in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God

IN THE MORNING – THE BREAD COMES – BELLIES ARE FULL

THEY ASK – Hey, where did this stuff come from? What is this? // Manna = What is it?

WHAT SHOULD THEY HAVE SAID? – Thank you God! Got any butter for this Bread?!

And that it may appear beyond a doubt that this food was then created miraculously, and contrary to the order of nature, these points are to be taken into consideration.

First, It did not appear in the wilderness before the hour assigned by Moses in obedience to God's command.

Secondly, No change of weather prevented the manna from dropping in a regular measure; neither frost, nor rain, nor heat, nor winter, nor summer, interrupted the course of its distillation.

Thirdly, A quantity sufficient for the immense multitude was found every day, when they took up an omer for every individual.

Again, on the sixth day, the quantity was doubled, that they might lay by a second omer for their Sabbath food.

Fifthly, If they preserved any beyond their due allowance, it was subject to putrefaction, whereas, on the Sabbath day, the second portion remained good.

Sixthly, Wherever they were, this blessing of God always accompanied them, whilst the neighboring nations lived on corn, and the manna was only known in their camp.

Seventhly, As soon as they entered a fruitful and corn-growing country, the manna ceased.

Eighthly, That portion, which Moses was commanded to lay up in a vessel, did not grow corrupt.

Godless Thinking // NO GOD – NO CONTENTMENT // He is the Key

2. The Signs of Contentment

a) **OBEDIENCE** v. 4 “I will test them and see whether they follow my instructions”

7.5 **GOD SAYS TO MOSES** “the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord”

PAGAN Egyptians MORE SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING THAN COVENANT ISRAEL

MOSES TO PHAROAH 7.16 “The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert”

NOT LET THEM GO SO THEY CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT / Follow & Serve

SOMETIMES WE'RE NOT CONTENT because WE WANT OUR WILL AND NOT HIS
Prodigal Son found more peace with the Father than with the prostitutes or pigs

b) REST v. 23 “tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the Lord”

FIRST TIME WORD SABBATH APPEARS IN THE BIBLE / Before Sinai
PRINCIPLE OF CREATION / 6 & 1 STRUCTURE / One Day of Rest

FREED SLAVES / NO HOLIDAYS / NO REST – Good News – 6 Days you will Work!

REST – GO to BED WITH NO FOOD IN THE KITCHEN / Knowing God makes Breakfast

v. 27 “Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather”
FAILED TO BELIEVE GOD’S COMMAND / GATHER MORE ON THE SIXTH DAY
- like somebody going to shop at Zilloni Bazaar on Monday

Work in Bazaar or Worship? / FOOD COME FROM GOD OR OUR LABORS?

c) SATISFACTION v 18 Each one gathered as much as he needed/ GOD Knows Needs

BASIS OF JESUS PRAYER “Give us today our Daily Bread” / CONTENTMENT

v. 20 “Some paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell”

Some, however, disobeyed the command and saved some manna. Why? Because they're afraid there won't be any tomorrow. "The Lord may be giving now," they must reason, "but he might not give tomorrow." The Lord promised that he would give tomorrow, but they don't believe him. So they sin: They don't believe the Lord.

So they take the Lord's good gift and they hoard it; they turn a gift into a possession. In making it a possession, they squeeze the giver right out of the gift. All they are left with is a gift they no longer think of as a gift but as something deserved. When a gift becomes a possession, it is no longer satisfying, so it easily becomes an irrational obsession that would supposedly be satisfying if enough of it could be obtained and maintained. These folks are obsessed with having enough food for tomorrow, so they gather extra.

But worms eat away at it, and it becomes foul. It is inedible. Their strategy for success backfires, as do all strategies that fly in the face of the Lord's commands.

The Lord will give us what we need tomorrow. That means we don't have to worry about it. Listen to the words of Jesus: "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek, for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:31-34).

When they kept manna against a command, it stank; when they kept it by a command, it was sweet and good; every thing is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

d) REMEMBERING v. 32 "Keep it for the generations to come"

After 40 years of Manna it was finished / Joshua 5.12 "the manna stopped"

v. 33 "keep it for the generations to come" / Heb 9.4 Golden Jar in Ark of God

Look back at the Goodness of God / Remember what he has done / Deuteronomy

Joshua told the Israelites to RAISE UP A STONE OF REMEMBRANCE
PERMANENT WITNESS TO THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

REVELATION – Jesus to Church in Pergamum – OVERCOME - Receive Hidden Manna

3. The Source of Contentment

a) Knowledge of God v. 12 "Then you will know that I am the Lord your God"

v. 10 "the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud"

FULLNESS OF GOD'S GLORY APPEARED IN HIS SON – Lord Jesus Christ

What did Israel say when they saw Jesus? – Manna? Who is this? SAME BLINDNESS

b) Bread of God / Jesus is the New Moses / Founder of New Covenant

Feeds 5000 with Bread and Fish from Little Boy's Lunch

Then Great Crowds come to FIND AND FEED

John 6.26 You have come because of Physical Interests not Spiritual / More Food

6.27 “Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you’

WHAT IS THAT FOOD / Man does not live by Bread Alone – but Word of God

JESUS IS THAT LIVING WORD

6.33 “the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world”

6.35 “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty”

JESUS IS ALL WE OUR SOULS NEED / SATISFACTION THAT IS COMPLETE

6.51 “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If a man eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

6.53 “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you”

AMAZING WORDS / for some they are Disgusting Words / others Life Giving Words

MOST LEAVE / FEW Remain - 6.68 “you have the words of eternal life”

c) Bread of Remembrance

Jesus knows we are like Israelites / We Forget / We Grumble

LEAVES SOMETHING TO HELP US NOT FORGET THE MERCY OF GOD

SALVATION EVENT FOR ISRAEL – RED SEA / Passover Meal of Remembrance

SALVATION EVENT FOR CHURCH – CROSS / Lord’s Meal of Remembrance

BREAD of His Broken Body / CUP of His Shed Blood / GLORY OF GOD

HIDE AWAY THIS MERCY / MAGGOTS WILL COME / GIVE IT AWAY!