

TITLE AND NUMBER: 39. Recognising God's provision

REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Exodus 16:2-4; 9-15



In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The 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." Then 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." (v 2-4)

Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" While 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, "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.'" That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. 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." (v 9-15)

What does this Bible passage tell us?

God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. But here, they look back and think they were better off in captivity. In Egypt, they were slaves who longed to be free. Now, in the desert, they are free but complain that they do not know where their next meal is coming from. They look back longingly to their time as slaves because they had plenty of food! How quickly they have forgotten the spectacular way God brought them across the Red Sea and protected them from the Egyptian army which was coming after them. How quickly they have forgotten the God who rescued them from slavery (see Exodus 14).

In this passage, God is with the Israelites, appearing in the cloud. He hears their complaining, their fear and distress and miraculously provides all the food they need. He provides meat and thin flakes like frost. The Israelites did not know what the flakes were. Moses had to tell them it was bread provided by God.

This passage shows us that God is with us and He hears us, although His provision does not always come in the way we expect.

Reflections:

- How has God provided for you?
- Have you ever had an experience which you only later realised was God's provision?
- Why did God only provide enough food for each day?
- Think about why you can trust God to meet your needs every day.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

