

First Quarter : The Patriarchs and Early Leaders of Israel

LESSON FOREWORD—Listen. The song of victory of last lesson has given place to complainings, first because of lack of water, now because of lack of bread in the wilderness of sin. The Israelites are finding out that the road to liberty, like all of God's highways, is not easy.

Lesson V.

THE GIVING OF THE MANNA

February 2, 1919

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Exodus 16 : 11-18, 31-35.

11 And the Lord spake unto Mo'ses, saying,

12 I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel : speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread ; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God.

13 And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp : and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

14 And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoarfrost on the ground.

15 And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna : for they wist not what it was. And Mo'ses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat.

16 This is the thing which the Lord hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an o'mer for every man, according to the number of your persons ; take ye every man for them which are in his tents.

17 And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.

18 And when they did mete it with an o'mer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack ; they gathered every man according to his eating.

31 And the house of Israel called the name thereof Man'na : and it was like coriander seed, white ; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

32 And Mo'ses said, This is the thing which the Lord commandeth, Fill an o'mer of it to be kept for your generations ; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt.

33 And Mo'ses said unto Aa'ron, Take a pot, and put an o'mer full of man'na therein, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations.

34 As the Lord commanded Mo'ses, so Aa'ron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

35 And the children of Israel did eat man'na forty years, until they came to a land inhabited ; they did eat man'na, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

GOLDEN TEXT—Give us this day our daily bread.—Matthew 6 : 11.

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—Poverty and Providence in our Day. ADDITIONAL MATERIAL.—Ps. 65 : 9-13 ; 104 : 10-15 ; Matt. 6 : 24-34 ; Acts 14 : 17.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE PROMISE.—11, 12. *I have heard the murmurings.* The Israelites, like us all, found murmuring come easy. Murmuring against circumstances is generally murmuring against God. In the first difficulties of the journey, the Israelites forget the sting of the lash and the weight of the burden. Slavery with fulness of bread seemed preferable to liberty and famine. *Ye shall eat flesh . . . bread.* God deals with patience. Slaves have to learn to endure the penalties and appreciate the privileges of freedom. *Ye shall know . . . your God.* Every miracle is meant to be a lesson in God's power and care.



QUAILS

II. THE PROVISION.—13-18. *Quails ; birds driven by the wind from the sea* (see Num. 11 :

31). *A small round thing ; a thin flake falling from heaven with the dew, v. 4.* God means men to get bread from the earth, but to expect it from heaven. But the Israelites, after the exhaustion of their first stores, were absolutely dependent on God. *Said one to another ; in astonishment.* *Manna ; a question, not a name.* It means, "What is it ?" Then the substance was called manna. *Wist not ; know not.* *Gather . . . an omer.* Something less than two quarts. *Much . . . nothing over . . . little . . . no lack.* When they gathered what seemed to be the required quantity, it measured out exactly an omer a person. Further on we read that if any was kept over it corrupted except in the case of that gathered on the sixth day, for use on the Sabbath. Under ordinary circumstances God says, "Work for to-morrow's bread, but do not worry." Here he said, "Gather to-day's bread ; trust for to-morrow's."

III. THE MEMORIAL.—31-35. *Like coriander seed ; a small aromatic seed.* Numbers 11 : 7, 8,