

GOLD JAR OF MANNA

Request: Why was a golden jar of manna placed with the Ark of the Covenant?

The Holy of Holies was built in Solomon's temple to house the Ark of the Covenant to teach shadow Christology of the Old Covenant (Heb.9-10; 1 Kings 8:21).

The Ark contained four items: gold jar of manna; Aaron's budding rod; tablets of commandments; and Book of Law (Deuteronomy) (Heb.9:3-4,19; Deut.31:23-29; 2 Kings 22:8).

Only the tablets of Commandments were placed inside the Ark (Ex.25:16). The other three were placed either before or besides the Ark (1 Kings 8:9; 2 Chron.5:10).

Each of these four items has a special shadow Christology doctrine associated with them. Today's lesson will study the doctrine associated with the gold jar of manna.

The Exodus manna is not to be confused with (*Tamarix gallica*) a secretion from the Tamarisk tree. There are similarities between this natural substance and manna but it is not the same.

Today's lesson will study SIX aspects of the gold jar of manna of (Ex.16: 4)

This gold jar of manna was kept perfectly by the word of God from the Exodus (1440BC) until the Babylon captivity (586BC). The Exodus manna was truly Miracle Bread – "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, **that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.**" (Ex.16: 4)

1. The Exodus manna was a visual aid doctrine of God's faithfulness to every believer in phase II no matter what his spiritual status.

Those who gathered a lot didn't have anymore than those who gathered little as to their needs – "Every man as much as he should eat." (Ex.16:13-21)

"At the twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread; and you shall know that I am the Lord your God." (Ex.16:12)

The etymology of the word manna is given in Ex.16: 15 – "When the sons of Israel saw it, they said to another, 'What is it (man-hu)?' For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, 'It is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat.'"

2. Manna was used as an example of equality in Christ (John 6:32-33; 1 Cor.10: 3-4; Gal.3: 26-29; Rev.2: 17).

There were differences in appetite, capacity, age, disability, and sizes of family yet God provided for each of their daily needs. In God's grace, each believer's daily need was met regardless of the capacity of need (Phil.4: 18-19; Matt.6: 11).

Paul made a reference to Ex.16: 18 in 2 Cor.8: 13-15 – "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little had no lack."

3. Manna occurred during the second month of the Exodus because of the grumbling against the Lord (Ex.16: 1-3, 7-8; Heb.3-4).

Manna became the morning food for the Exodus journey desert to the Promise land.

However, God had prepared for Israel's journey to the Promised Land before they left Egypt (Ex.12:33-39/ unleavened bread). They were to eat unleavened bread until reach Promised Land (Ex.13:4-10).

4. Manna was a test for believers whether they would cycle the word of God by faith (Deut.8:3-5,16-20).

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether or not they will walk in My instruction.’” (Ex.16: 4)(Deut.8: 6-9)

“And Thou didst give Thy good Spirit to instruct them, Thy manna didst Thou not withhold from their mouth, and Thou didst give them water for their thirst. Indeed, forty years Thou didst provide for them in the wilderness and they were not in want; their **clothes** did not wear out, nor did their **feet** swell.” (Neh.9:20-21)

For the spiritual advancing believer (PV), manna tasted like wafers and honey (like food of the promise land; Num.13:27) (Ex.16:31). They were fed the bread of angels (Ps.78:24-25).

For the reversionistic believer (NV), all the food given by the grace of God tasted awful (Ex.16: 3, 20; Num.11: 5-6, 18-20; Num.21: 5) [“We loathe this miserable food.”]

5. Manna became the food of 40 years of reversionism while wandering in the desert (Ex.16:35).

“For the sons of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, that is, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished because they did not listen to the voice of the Lord, to whom the Lord had sworn that He would not let them see the land which the Lord had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.” (Joshua.5:6)

Manna ceased on the very day they entered and eat the fruit of the Promise land.

“And manna ceased on the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land, so that the sons of Israel no longer had manna, but they ate some of the yield of the land of Canaan during that year.” (Josh.5:12)

6. Jesus made a reference to the doctrinal lesson of manna in Matt.4: 4 (Deut.8: 3).

Believer can only win in the angelic conflict by cycling God's word by faith (Eph.6:11-17).

“That I may test them, whether or not they walk in My instruction.” (Ex.16:4)

“In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble (grace orientation) you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.” (Deut.8:16)

“And Moses said to Aaron, ‘take a jar and put an omerful (an omer is a tenth part of an ephah/ Ex.16:36) of manna in it, and place it before the Lord, to be kept throughout your generation.’ As the Lord commanded Moses, so Aaron placed it before the Testimony, to be kept.” (Ex.16:32-34)