

EPISODE NO. 69

Exo. 16:2-8,13-18

Quail Meat and Manna

2 In the desert, the whole congregation of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron. 3 The sons of Israel said to them, “We wish we had died in the land of Egypt by Yahweh’s hand, when we sat around the bowls of meat, when we ate plenty of bread. You have brought this entire gathering of people out into this desert to starve us to death!”

4 Then Yahweh said to Moses, “Listen, I will cause food to rain down from the sky for you people! The people must go out and gather one day’s portion each day. I want to test them to see if they will obey My law or not. 5 On the sixth day, there will be twice as much as they usually gather each day, when they cook what they bring in.”

6 So, Moses and Aaron told all the sons of Israel: “In the evening, you will KNOW that the Always-Present One has brought you out of the land of Egypt. 7 And, in the morning, you will see the splendor of Yahweh. We are not worth complaining against. But the Always-Present One hears your complaints against HIM!

8 Then Moses said, “The Always-Present One gives you meat to eat in the evening and plenty of bread in the morning. The Always-Present One hears your complaints which you are speaking against Him. Aaron and I don’t matter. Your complaints are NOT against us, but against the Always-Present One!”

13 In the evening, quail birds did come up and cover the camp. And, in the morning, there was a layer of dew all around the camp. 14 But after the dew disappeared, look, there were thin flakes on the surface of the desert. It was as fine as the frost on the ground.

15 When the sons of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” They did not know what it was. And Moses told them, “It is the food which the Always-Present One has given to you to eat. 16 This is what the Always-Present One has commanded: ‘Each person should gather some of it, as much as he needs to eat. Take an omer apiece, according to the number of people in each person’s tent.’ ”

17 The sons of Israel did exactly that. They gathered the food — some more, some less. 18 But when they measured it with an omer, the one who gathered a lot did not have too

much. And the one who gathered only a little had enough. Each person gathered as much as he needed to eat.