

What Is It

Exodus 15:22 – 16:36

by Don Falkos

copyright 2016 Donald Falkos Storytelling LLC

The people of Israel left the Red Sea and traveled through the desert. They came to an oasis but found the water undrinkable. The people complained. But the Lord showed Moses a tree branch, which he threw into the water, and the water became fit to drink. The Lord said to the people, "Obey me. I am your healer."

After a month in the wilderness, the people complained, "Why didn't God kill us in Egypt. There we had plenty of meat and bread to eat. But here we're starving to death."

Moses said to the people, "The Lord has heard your complaint. So in the evening you will have meat, and in the morning bread."

That evening, a flock of quail landed in the camp. Meat! In the morning, when the dew evaporated, there was a fine flaky something on the ground that looked like frost. The people asked, "What is it?" They'd never seen anything like it.

Moses explained, "This is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. Each morning gather only what you need for the day and don't keep any overnight." But some people did. The next morning they found it spoiled and full of maggots.

On the sixth day of the week the people were told to gather enough for two days, "Tomorrow," said Moses, "will be a day of complete rest, a Sabbath day set apart for the Lord. There will be no food on the ground tomorrow, but what you collect today will remain fresh for tomorrow as well." And so it was.

The Israelites called the food manna, which means, "What is it?" It was white and tasted like wafers made with honey.