

## October 31

**Numbers 11: 4: And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? 5: We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: 6: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes. 7: And the manna was as coriander seed, and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium.**

Wherever God has established the preaching of Christ in truth, God is raining down angel's food better than that in the wilderness. (Ps 78: 24-25) Christ is the true Bread from heaven. Giving his flesh in place of his people he satisfied the justice of God and gave his people life. By the declaration of this good news, he makes his people willing to believe on him. (Jn 6: 30-66) He continues to feed believers this Bread from heaven through a steady diet of the preaching of Christ and his works.

But sadly, like as the mixed multitude and the natural children of Israel longed for the variety of foods Egypt offered, many forsake the gospel in their lust to return to the variety of works with which their former religion enslaved them. Hearing one message of Christ and his works, rather than their own works, makes them say, "Now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes." Nothing at all, beside Christ! Who can say such a thing? Those who regard Christ as a small, insignificant thing, like coriander seed. So before long, they follow the false disciples in Christ's day that "went back, and walked no more with him." (Jn 6: 66)

Yet, when the Holy Spirit forms Christ within his child, that same gospel, like coriander seed, is abundant with fullness of Life (Jn 1: 16) From Christ's fullness, he gives us ears to hear his voice in the gospel. So we hear Christ promise us, as he promised the church in Pergamos, that those who overcome (repenting from our works and believing Christ) shall "eat of the hidden Manna." That is, by drawing us to Christ with a teachable heart, he makes us feast upon the Manna which God hides from the wise and prudent. (Rev 2: 17; Lu 10: 21) And like the coriander was "as the colour of bdellium" we are given a "white stone", Christ, the Pearl of great price. He is precious to us because in Christ we are given "a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth" Christ through faith. (Rev 2: 17) Our new name is Christ's name: "the LORD our Righteousness." (Jer 23: 6; 33: 16)

Therefore, unlike those who lust to return to the bread and bondage of their works, having this precious Pearl with this priceless name, we are like the "merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." (Mt 13: 45) So when asked will we give up angel's food for religion's garlic and leeks, we say with Peter, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." (Jn 6: 68-69)

Christ said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. (Jn 6: 47-51) By giving himself for all those the Father gave unto him,

He said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.” (Jn 6: 53-58)

When the Holy Spirit forms Christ in the heart we are given the hidden manna and Christ becomes the white stone, the pearl of great price. (Rev 2: 17) We become like “a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.” (Mt 13: 45) Christ makes his true child depart from Egypt and all its vain

Christ is the food for our souls because,

Colossians 2:3: In [Christ] are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge...

Ephesians 1:7: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8: Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;

1 Corinthians 1:5: That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; 6: Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7: So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:7: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

As the Color of a Precious Stone

Numbers 11: 7:...and the colour thereof as the colour of bdellium.

When Christ speaks effectually into our hearts, Christ becomes precious to the believer. It means as the color of a precious stone—the color of a pearl; a round white stone.

Revelation 2:17: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh [we overcome by faith, so it means to him that believeth] will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Christ is the Only Cure

Christ and his gospel is the only cure for our unbelief.

Numbers 11: 8: And the people went about, and gathered it, ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.”

What is the cure for hunger? What do you do when you are hungry? You eat. By the Spirit giving us a hunger and thirst after righteousness, the believer does not depart from the table, we assemble and gather Christ our Manna. He makes us hunger to hear his gospel; he makes us thirst for the sincere milk of the word

While preparing it they looked at that manna being “ground in mills or beaten in a mortar.” As we gather Christ, through faith by the Holy Spirit, we behold Christ “wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities.”

As they prepared it they watched that manna being “baked in pans”—through the gospel we behold Christ enduring the fire of God’s wrath in our room and stead. We eat Christ our bread—like as they made “cakes of it” and ate it. By the Holy Spirit’s discernment—“the taste is as fresh oil”: we have peace with God

because in Christ: by his work we are justified, made righteous, redeemed by his precious blood and kept by his grace.

We do none of this of ourselves, it is all of his grace. Verse 9 says, “the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.” The Holy Spirit falls upon us in this world of night, into our dark, unbelieving hearts like “the dew fell upon the camp in the night.” As the Holy Spirit enters, Christ falls upon us to the nourishment of our souls—as “the manna fell upon it.”

If you truly desire a cure for the withering away of your souls, for any and every trouble you have, assemble with Gods people under the preaching of the gospel. Give your undivided attention to hear and study Christ. Follow the Ark under the Cloud together with God’s people as we hear of his wonderful works and wait on the LORD to do those works. Christ is the cure—the only cure—for our sin and unbelief.