

GOD'S PROVISION

Pt 1 – The Testimony of God's Provision

With these lessons I want us to consider and appreciate the glorious Covenant Relationship that God has brought us into: those of us who have been redeemed by The Blood of The Lamb. I pray that the REALITY of this Relationship and our wonderful Salvation would truly be made manifest to us, and that we would walk in this Truth daily. May we truly come to understand and experience the fulness of The Finished Work of The Cross of Christ. And I pray this will be a means of strengthening us and allowing us to rest in what God has done.

For me this all comes down to God's Presence in the midst of His People: those who He has Redeemed unto Himself. And I want us to consider this: God is NOT far off from us! Even in the types and shadows of Israel in the wilderness, God did not bring them out of Egypt and leave them there all alone to fend for themselves. He – His abiding Presence was with them, (at that time it was in the pillar of a cloud and of fire) and they were to live in that understanding. He had brought them OUT of Egypt, out of bondage, out of death: INTO a new land, a new Relationship – a Covenant Agreement with their Jehovah God. And He would provide everything they would need. But I want us to see that this "provision" is not just from an earthly standpoint as we usually consider "provision". God's Provision was from a Heavenly viewpoint because God provided for His People for a Purpose: that they would live in the earth in Covenant Relationship with their Jehovah God, and be the Testimony of this in the earth. Now physical needs were met in

a miraculous way, but everything must be understood in terms of God's Spiritual Truth.

I know we often quote **Philippians 4:19**: *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* And generally we say this to encourage ourselves when we have a "need"—a bill to pay, or some lack we want God to take care of in the natural, physical realm. And notice this does not say your "wants" – but your NEED: what is required and necessary. Now I know God does provide for us in the natural: but He supplies "according to" something: His riches in Glory. So this brings us into the Spiritual realm, and He does this by Christ Jesus. And Jesus is more than a "Santa Claus figure" that gives us gifts to make life easier for us. And more and more I am coming to see that our greatest "need" (singular, not plural) is not in the natural, physical realm. Our greatest "need" is to know our God, our Savior, our Redeemer! And God has provided the means for this "need" to be fully met: His Son! And it is this "knowing"—not just intellectually agreeing that Jesus is the Son of God, but experiencing Him as Who He is living in us that satisfies every longing of our soul! And that is even better than having our physical needs met. Jesus said this is "Eternal Life"— **John 17:3**: *"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."* And this "know" means to be aware of, to be sure of, to understand. Once we truly do know our God – what else do we need? HE becomes everything to us, and HE is our provision – for all things, and in every situation.

So it is not so much what God "gives us", but Who He is – TO US! He is THE I AM! HE is The Eternal, All Powerful Covenant God who desires to make Himself known to HIS People! We see this so clearly when Jesus comes to the earth and declares Himself to be the fulness of the many provisions that God had

given to Israel in the Old Covenant. “I am THE Bread, I am THE Door, I am THE Light, I am THE Shepherd, I am THE Way, I am THE Resurrection and THE Life. Notice He always said “the” – exclusively Him, and none other. **He is God’s Provision and the fulness of everything that God Provides!** And all of our needs – to experience Eternal Life, and to walk in Covenant Relationship with God (not just struggle through this world) are met as God makes His Son known to us and in us. And God always works in proportion to His unlimited resources: the Truth of Who He is! So let us not “limit God” only to this earth realm: of having Him just fulfill our physical needs. Let us desire to know Him in the fulness and the vastness of the Heavens!

But let us look in the Scriptures at the Testimony of God’s Provision: what God supplied to meet a need. We first see this in **Genesis 3** after Adam and Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **Genesis 3:21:** *“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.”* God made coats of skin and clothed them from their nakedness. Because of their “sin” they no longer could be in God’s Presence, and the leaf coverings they made for themselves did not work. So GOD killed an animal and covered them with the skins. This is a type of **Christ-the Lamb** who would be slain and become the righteousness of man so that they could come to God. But in God’s view even in type, the “Provision” was not a coat, but the slain Son.

Genesis 22. God makes this “Provision” known to Abraham on Mount Mariah, where Abraham was told to take his only son Isaac and offers him as a burnt offering to God. They brought the fire, the wood and the knife, but where was the lamb? **Genesis 22:8:** *“And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them*

*together.” God’s Provision was – and always will be the Lamb that He provided Himself! And by this Provision Abraham came to know this Covenant God. **Genesis 22:14:** “*And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.*” Jehovah-jireh – His Name means ‘Jehovah will see to it’. God’s Provision will be seen here: in the place where the Lamb is slain: the Lamb that God provided. And we must understand that this is the sacrifice that God accepts, the only one. We must offer to Him what He has provided – **HIS SON**.*

I hope we are clearly seeing that HIS SON - in relation to The Cross is God’s Provision for man, and this is set forth in type with Israel in the wilderness. They needed food – God sends Bread from Heaven. (Exodus 16) They called it “Manna” because they didn’t know what it was. But Jesus said in **John 6** “I am The True Bread from Heaven and if you eat of ME you shall live forever.” In the Old Covenant the Manna was a type of Jesus coming from Heaven to earth to die – so that they could live. But you had to partake of Him daily. They needed water – God told Moses to strike the Rock and water flowed! (Exodus 17) In this place they had “need” of everything in the natural, but God “provides” what they need for them to see and experience their “New Life” in Covenant Relationship with Him. And this is how God always works.

God’s Provision for us is **HIS SON AND THE CROSS**. But we do not have just the type and shadow of Him as the Old Covenant saints did. We have The Reality, The Truth: and IN HIM we have (and must find) everything of our Salvation, and everything that will enable us to walk daily in this glorious Relationship with God as our Father, our Covenant God. May these scriptures become “real” to us, and the Reality we live in daily.

- **Ephesians 1:3:** *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"*
- **II Peter 1:3:** *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"*
- **Colossians 2:9:** *"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10: And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"*

So as we look to the Lord to "meet our needs", may we understand that the Lord will always show us **HIS SON**. And may we learn to be content with HIM! I am reminded of the cry of the Apostle Paul's heart: ***"That I may know HIM..."*** (Philippians 3:10) May that also become the cry of our hearts. God delights in making His Provision, His Son known to us!

Pt 2 – God’s Heavenly Provision

My prayer for us these days is that we are appreciating all that God has done for us by The Cross of Christ, and that we are not neglecting this is “So Great Salvation” that we now have. And by that I mean to honor it, always be aware of it and rest in it continually, always praising God for what He has done. Friends, this “So Great Salvation” is so much bigger and greater than most of us know, and certainly so much more than most of us are experiencing. So I want to encourage us from **Exodus 14:13**: “... *Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day...*” And we must understand that God desires to show us - reveal not only TO us, but IN us this Great Salvation so that we may know and experience daily what He has done.

And remember God is The One that reveals this: makes it known, and He is the Only One who can. And although this is seen in the earth and experienced by a people in flesh bodies, this is a Heavenly View: not an earthly one. God continued to tell Israel and also admonishes us to “lift up our eyes” – out of the earth realm into the Heavenly where the Reality and Fulness, the Substance of our Salvation is. **Ephesians 1:3** says “*God hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.*” So God wants us to see with His View: the Heavenly view of Heavenly things, and not focus just on things in the earth realm. **Ephesians 3:20** says “*He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.*” God desires to make His Heavenly Truth known to us NOW. It is so in the Heavenly realm, but God wants us to experience it here in the earth – now. **I Peter 1:3**: “*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath*

begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4: To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." It is secure in the Heavenly realm for us waiting... not to become real (it already is!); but to be revealed to us: to be made manifest (made known) to us who have received His Salvation. This is the abundance of The New Life Jesus came to give us – His Life. **John 10:10:** *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* And "have" means "to possess His Life" super abundantly! This is Great Salvation – all that He is! He has given us ALL THINGS that pertain to Life and Godliness in the very Person of His Son who is now our Life!

I would like us to begin to look at the Testimony of God's provision for the nation of Israel when they were delivered out from Egypt and brought through the Red Sea into the wilderness. And the emphasis here is on what God provided. Now in this place they needed everything to survive, but this was not just in the natural, physical realm. Even more importantly God wanted them to come to experience Him and trust Him; and to make Himself known to them as THE I AM – your Covenant God. **Exodus 6:2:** *"And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: 3: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them."* "JEHOVAH" is His Covenant Name with His people: He is not just The God of Creation, but THEIR God. And when He delivered Israel, His Presence was continually in their midst. **Exodus 13:21:** *"And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: 22: He took not*

away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.” And out from His Presence in their midst: out from Who He is, He provided for them. But I must emphasize that although He did meet their physical needs in abundance, God’s intention was greater than that. He wanted them to come to know HIM and be able to rely on HIM for everything. He wanted them to truly know and experience daily and continually THE I AM that He is. So their greatest need was not really earthly needs, but Spiritual: to see the Reality of this Covenant Relationship from a Heavenly View, and that is certainly true for us also today.

Now immediately when Israel came into the wilderness, their needs became known to them. And a continual need in the wilderness was concerning the issue of thirst: the need for water to sustain life. The first crisis they faced was concerning the bitter waters that they found in the land. **Exodus 15:22:** *“So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. 23: And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. 24: And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? 25: And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, 26: And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee. 27: And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.”* Notice that the

Lord showed Moses a tree. The provision was there, but the Lord had to reveal it. And we will see that in all of God's provisions in the natural they were speaking of God's Provision – being One – HIS SON, and Him in relation to The Cross. So in this case the tree was cut down and when it was cast into the waters, they became sweet and Israel was able to drink and live. This type is speaking of The Cross and Jesus who would die to give us Life – sweet, abundant Life. And the Lord God – The Jehovah Covenant God was establishing Himself to them as “I AM The Lord that healeth thee.” But they would have to obey Him and be led by Him so that they could experience this New Life. Then they were brought to a place not just of water, but of twelve wells of water and palm trees, and they can rest where there was an abundance of Life. So may we see that God's provision here in the Testimony to Israel is **His** Tree – The Cross of Christ!

But then the issue with Israel became hunger. And it is important that we see that God's Plan was not just to feed them from the earth, but from the Heavens. Israel's view was still an earthly view: to fulfill their fleshly needs, and so even though they were delivered from the bondage and death of Egypt, they wanted to return to Egypt. **Exodus 16:1:** *“And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. 2: And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: 3: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”* But the Lord talks about **“bread from Heaven for you”**. This is God's

Provision. **Exodus 16:4:** *"Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no. 5: And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth day they shall prepare that which they bring in; and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily. 6: And Moses and Aaron said unto all the children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know that the LORD hath brought you out from the land of Egypt: 7: And in the morning, then ye shall see the glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, that ye murmur against us? 8: And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD. 9: And Moses spake unto Aaron, Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, Come near before the LORD: for he hath heard your murmurings. 10: And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. 11: And the LORD spake unto Moses, 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."*

But this is all for a Purpose: **Verse 12** – ***"...and ye shall know that I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD."*** God wanted them to know (understand, experience and to be assured) of HIM: "that The I AM is The Lord your God." Note the Scripture speaks both of the quails and the bread from heaven. And in verse 15 they called it "manna" meaning "what is it?" because they did NOT

really understand what this Heavenly Provision was. And it is important that we understand that this “manna” is associated in the Scriptures with the wilderness experience and God trying and testing their hearts. But God does not want us to be ignorant of Him and what He has done for us: He wants us to fully KNOW HIM. So when the new generation of Israel entered Canaan (the fulness of God’s thought), the manna ceased. **Joshua 5:12:** *“And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.”* **Exodus 16:35:** *“And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.”*

Now we are probably all familiar with the “story” of this manna: how it came out of Heaven each morning fresh and they were to gather it as God told them. **Exodus 16:14:** *“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 hoar frost 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 Moses 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 omer 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 omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating. 19: And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning. 20: Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth*

with them. **21:** And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted. **22:** And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses. **23:** And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. **24:** And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. **25:** And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. **26:** Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none. **27:** And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. **28:** And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? **29:** See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. **30:** So the people rested on the seventh day. **31:** And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey. **32:** And Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer 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 Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations. **34:** As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept. **35:** And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of

Canaan.” But this “Provision” was speaking of a greater need His people had and what HE would give them. Earthly, natural bread and food only feed our bodies, but “The Heavenly Bread” that God has provided gives us Eternal Life. So we must understand this “manna” is **Christ in type** – but Him coming in a certain way: not to bless them with natural food, but coming out from Heaven – to **die**! This was God’s Provision for them so that they might Live with Eternal Life, The Life HE would give them.

They could not understand this under The Old Covenant, but Jesus seeks to open their eyes and tells them of “The True Bread From Heaven” that HE is in John 6. This is after He fed the 5,000 miraculously, but then they were seeking Him for natural blessings. **John 6:26:** *“Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. 27: Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”* They remembered “Moses’ manna” (which never brought them LIFE), but He tells them that HE is The Truth of that. **John 6:31:** *“Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. 32: Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33: For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. 34: Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. 35: And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”* **HE** gives Life to the world and takes away hunger and thirst: but this is not natural, but Spiritual. This Living Bread from Heaven speaks of Christ and His death. **John 6:48:** *“I am that bread of*

life. 49: Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50: This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 51: 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." And if we are going to come to Eternal Life, we must partake of Him this way. **John 6:53:** *"Then Jesus said unto them, 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. 54: Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55: For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56: He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. 57: As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. 58: 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."* So the type of the manna sent from Heaven in the wilderness is fulfilled by The Son of Man going to The Cross. **HE** is God's Provision!

Pt 3 – Provision – The Sabbath.

We are continuing to look into the Testimony of the Old Covenant to see how and what God provided for His People Israel when He brought them out of Egypt. In this place and in the condition they were in they needed everything, and were to look to their Jehovah God for it all. But this was not just so they could “survive”, but that they would be the Testimony in the earth of who God was to them and their relationship to Him. And this Testimony has come to be beautifully fulfilled for us as believers in Christ today. **II Peter 1:2:** *“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3: According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”* And this is not a future promise but a present Truth! This is what He has (past tense) given unto us – ALL things that pertain to Eternal Union with God, Salvation, Resurrection Life and Godliness so that we can now have this Fellowship with God. And it is all operational in us through the knowledge of Him: knowing The Person of our Salvation, God’s Provision – His Son.

And although God provided natural things to meet Israel’s natural needs (and still does for us today), we must see these “things” as Spiritual: what God provided so that we could experience and be the manifesting of our Deliverance, Redemption and Salvation here in the earth. And God does this by bringing us to a knowledge of Him. This is not just what He did and what He provided; but He wanted them and us to know who He is! Moses sang beautifully of this in **Exodus 15:2:** *“The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God,*

and I will exalt him.” And when we read the words “the Lord” this is speaking of Jehovah – the Covenant God: His Name in relationship to His People, not just as God, the Creator of the universe. Israel was to make this God known, and we today as the Church are to show forth His praises, His virtues in all the earth.

But we are going to continue to look at Israel’s needs and what God provided for them. And we need to understand God did this because they were His People: those He had brought out of death unto Life, and He was faithful to His Name and Presence in their midst. We have looked at God providing the tree that was cut down to make the waters sweet for them. And then God met their hunger by providing them with the quails to eat and the manna that came from God every day except on the Sabbath day. And I want to emphasize again that this “manna” in God’s mind was not just Jesus coming and giving them food in the natural: but this was speaking of The True Bread from Heaven that Jesus described in **John 6** as The Son of Man – coming to die so that those who would partake of Him by The Cross would have Eternal Life. And I pray that the Lord will make this Truth known to us today.

But it is in relation to the giving of this Manna that God gave Israel something else – The SABBATH. And I really want us to consider this. **Exodus 16:23:** *“And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, To morrow is the rest of the holy sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake to day, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning. 24: And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein. 25: And Moses said, Eat that to day; for to day is a sabbath unto the LORD: to day ye shall not find it in the field. 26: Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day,*

which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none. 27: And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none. 28: And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws? 29: See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. 30: So the people rested on the seventh day." They were to gather the manna for six days: gathering twice as much the sixth day because no manna was sent the seventh day. This was "the Holy Sabbath unto the Lord": but what does "Sabbath" mean? Not seven! The Hebrew word means REST: a ceasing, an intermission, sit still. But unless we see the giving of "the Rest of the Holy Sabbath of The Lord" in relation to the "Manna from Heaven", we will think that God was just giving them (and us) a day off from cooking, and that is not the case. We must see this from God's Spiritual View.

Now although the word "Sabbath" is not used in the Bible before Exodus 16, God came to a "rest" in the first creation. **Genesis 2:1:** *"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2: And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made."* God rested because He ended His Work of creation, and He saw that it was good. It pleased Him. **Genesis 1:31:** *"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."* He had worked six days (the number of man) and then RESTED on the seventh and blessed it because it represented His Finished Work. Nothing more needed to be done! And since the first creation was natural, this is seen as a natural day; but it spoke of Another Day that would come and a Greater Rest. So this was the thought of Sabbath (Rest) that God had, but I want us to see it was not spoken to Adam or

even Abraham. It was spoken of with Moses and the children of Israel when God gave them the Manna. Now at that time and under The Old Covenant Law it still was a natural day, but this was all speaking of Another Day: a Rest of God because of His Finished Work **AT THE CROSS**.

And when we see this in relation to the Manna (The Son of Man coming to die): we see a beautiful type of God bringing His People to partake of The Bread He is. But then coming to a complete and full REST – not laboring themselves, but partaking of His Finished Work, by what HE provided for them, and then living by this Bread continually. Now God's View of this Manna and The Sabbath unto the Lord was essential to The Old Covenant. A pot of Manna was in the Ark of The Covenant, and keeping the Sabbath "holy" was part of The Law. And The Sabbath was a "sign" between God and His People. **Exodus 31:13:** *"Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you. 14: Ye shall keep the sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. 15: Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death. 16: Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. 17: It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed."* And by honoring "the Rest of the Lord", The Sabbath, they were knowing The I AM as their Covenant God. But it is important for us to understand the "seventh day" Sabbath was NOT a day of special sacrifice, worship or

religious service. That was going on continually in the Tabernacle – not just on a special day. But many Christians today have made “the Sabbath” a day of religious activity which is not what it was intended to be. Worshiping God and sacrificing to Him should be our continual state of being. The Sabbath was simply to be a day of REST – acknowledging and enjoying God’s Finished Work. This was a Provision God gave to His People – especially the religious ones! Jesus spoke of this in **Matthew 11:28**: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* He was speaking of bringing God’s People into The Finished Work of The Cross – where God found His total Rest and satisfaction. And God desires that for us today also.

But throughout the Jewish history the Pharisees had “interpreted” the Sabbath with just natural things, much as we still do today. And Jesus who was the Lord of the Sabbath (all of God’s Finished Work) did things on the seventh day to provoke them to know Him in Truth. An example is in **Matthew 12:1**: *“At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn, and to eat. 2: But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day. 3: But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him; 4: How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests? 5: Or have ye not read in the law, how that on the sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the sabbath, and are blameless? 6: But I say unto you, That in this place is one greater than the temple. 7: But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not*

sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless. **8:** For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day. **9:** And when he was departed thence, he went into their synagogue: **10:** And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days? that they might accuse him. **11:** And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? **12:** How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days. **13:** Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other. **14:** Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him.” He desired that they would see HIM as God’s Provision so that they could put off “their religion”, and come to Rest in God’s Rest: His Finished Work of The Cross. But sadly they rejected HIM and clung to the religious types and shadows, and making the observance of them even more burdensome – never finding God’s TRUE Sabbath.

For us today this is not a natural calendar day and it cannot be fully observed by just not cooking or doing any manual labor. We must honor that True Bread from Heaven that came down and went to The Cross – and Finished God’s Work. **Hebrews 3 and 4** talks about the “seventh day” in terms of this REST. And note that this is HIS Rest – God’s, not ours. **Hebrews 3:18:** “And to whom swear he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? **19:** So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.” **Hebrews 4:1:** “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. **2:** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. **3:** For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he

said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. **4:** For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. **5:** And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. **6:** Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: **7:** Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. **8:** For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.”

“Jesus” in verse 8 is really “Joshua”: meaning that the Old Covenant didn’t bring God’s full Rest. That only came by The Cross and Jesus’ Work there. **Hebrews 4:9:** “There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. **10:** For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. **11:** Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” When you enter into **HIS** Rest (Keep The Sabbath of The Lord) you cease from your own works and rely on God’s. This was God’s great Provision for us - His Sabbath Rest!

Pt 4 – More on Sabbath and The Rock

As we consider God's glorious Provision for Israel under the Old Covenant, and the "Much More" fulness that we have now in Christ, may we never forget that this is all for a Purpose—God's Glory and recognition! **I Peter 2:9:** *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."* This is speaking of what God made His People to be – all for His Purpose. That you should show forth the praises of Him: that you should be (not just that you "sing" praises; but that you BE His Praise) the proclamation in the earth of the excellencies and virtues of this Covenant God! They were to live as HIS, making HIM known in the earth, and function totally by what God provided for them.

So I have been challenging us: do we understand what God has provided for us, and are we thankful for His Provision, and do we live daily in this understanding? He has blessed us with all Spiritual blessings in Christ, and given us all things that pertain to Life and godliness – in Christ. But I pray that we are truly summing all these "things" up, and seeing that God's Provision is – was – and always be – **HIS SON**. He provided us with the Death that we couldn't die ourselves; and has given us a Life – His Life, of Oneness with God. And His indwelling our souls allows us to experience this New Life NOW while we are here on the Earth. I really pray that The Lord will make this Reality Truth to us, so that we can Live as a manifestation of this Reality every day: so that God will be glorified in us.

Paul summed this up using natural Israel as an example in **I**

Corinthians 10:1: *“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2: And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3: And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4: And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”* God’s Presence was with them when they were delivered from Egypt. They entered into the Death of the Lamb, and then were fed Spiritual Meat from Heaven, and the same Spiritual Drink – The Water of Life, which was Christ. And we must see that every Provision is some aspect of Christ – in His Death, Burial and Resurrection. We will deal in this lesson with The “Spiritual Rock”, but I want to say a few more things about the Sabbath: specifically “The Sabbath Rest of The Lord.”

In our last lesson I pray we established that God’s View of The “Sabbath” is REST: a ceasing of all labor because the Work has been finished. And God found (planned and executed) His Rest in Christ and The Finished Work of The Cross. HE is The Lord of the Sabbath, and our Rest. And only in seeing this Work finished in Him and by Him at The Cross can we find rest for our souls. **Matthew 11:28:** *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”* When we are joined as One with Him, we receive all that He has done, and now we can rest from our labors: especially our “religious” ones. Remember “the Sabbath Rest” was given in relation to the “Manna from Heaven”, and was speaking of the perfect Rest Christ would bring by The Cross.

Under the Old Covenant the emphasis was upon what the

people did: continually working, sacrificing, repenting etc. But it NEVER made anything perfect: only leaving them with SIN consciousness. **Hebrews 10:1:** *"For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2: For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3: But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year."* But by "keeping the Sabbath" there was the promise of the day when this would change.

And this would be because of what Jesus did on The Cross and who He is! And because He was the full assurance and surety of Salvation, we can rest! **Hebrews 7:22:** *"By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. 23: And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25: Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. 26: For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; 27: Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. 28: For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore."* **He is able**, and now God has set Him in the Resurrection at the position of full authority over all things! **Ephesians 1:20:** *" (His Power) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21: Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world,*

but also in that which is to come: 22: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.” And if we can really see this Reality, we truly can REST because the Work has been finished! This is entering in and living by the Sabbath Rest of the Lord. So the question for us is: should we “keep the Sabbath”? Yes – we must honor and obey God’s Finished Work. But this is not just on a natural calendar day, but every day: in the Eternal Light of God’s Son.

Paul came to know The Truth of God’s Sabbath Rest – realized fully in the Lord Jesus Christ. As Saul under the Old Covenant Law he labored. But by the Revelation of Christ – as Paul he ceased from those religious labors and counted them as DUNG - USELESS! And then he rested in God’s Rest – in The Lord of the Sabbath. And Paul urged others not to go back: not to go back to the laborious bondage of the Old Covenant Law. And this was all very serious to Paul because of the Reality of The Cross that God brought him to. **Galatians 2:21:** *“I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”* **Galatians 5:1:** *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”* Remember that Grace came by Jesus Christ – God’s Provision, and we are saved by Grace, not works. So let us consider this very seriously. Christ is the end of the Law! He is the goal that God set forth as the end, and He fulfills all of it – not us!

Let us just look a little further at another of God’s Provisions for His People in the wilderness. Now in this place even though God provided sweet water at Marah, as they journeyed (and remember they were not supposed to stay in the wilderness, but were to pass through it and go into a New Land), thirst was always an issue with them: they needed water continually! And rather than trusting God and looking to Him for all their needs:

for the basic need to sustain Life, they murmured and complained! **Exodus 17:1:** *“And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. 2: Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD? 3: And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? 4: And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.”* The Lord gave Moses the authority to deal with this situation, and to use the rod that was used in the parting of the Red Sea. **Exodus 17:5:** *“And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.”* But now there will be a striking of the rock. **Exodus 17:6:** *“Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.”* And this is an important aspect of Christ as God’s Provision because once again this is speaking of His Death. And out from this Rock (which is Christ) being smitten – water poured out of it. And the “water” is speaking of His Life. We see how unworthy and ungrateful the people were for everything God had done for them. But this was His Gift, His Grace, and we have read in 1 Corinthians 10 that this was a Spiritual drink from a Spiritual Rock.

Jesus Himself, because of what His death did quench all our natural thirst and He only satisfies our souls. Jesus was comparing this to the water of the Old Testament wells with

the Samaritan woman in **John 4:13**: *“Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: **14**: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”* The Water He gives is not external, but internal. And He is as a continual well springing up into everlasting life – IN US, because it is Spirit Life – His Life. This is God’s Spiritual Provision for our thirst given by Christ at The Cross. And this is not a “one time” Provision, but continual. Even in the type it was glorious. **I Corinthians 10:4**: *“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”* So may we fully appreciate The Spiritual Rock that followed them and was always there to meet their need of Life: that Rock was **Christ**, and He is still that Rock to us today!