



- Exodus 16
- Have you ever been hungry in a place where there is no food?
  - Not things you don't like in the fridge or cupboard.
  - Not that you haven't been to the store, or a walk to the 7-11: there isn't a store
  - No food at all.
    - You, spouse, children, animals



- 2 And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, 3 and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

# Grumbling



- The whole congregation!
  - This is not isolated people having a bad day.
  - Grumbled against Moses and Aaron
  - Died in Egypt!
    - by the hand of Jehovah
  - Sat at meat pots and ate bread to the full
  - Brought us to KILL with hunger



- Psalms 78:17-20 (ESV) 17 Yet they sinned still more against him, rebelling against the Most High in the desert. 18 They tested God in their heart by demanding the food they craved. 19 They spoke against God, saying, “Can God spread a table in the wilderness? 20 He struck the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed. Can he also give bread or provide meat for his people?”

# Grumbling



- Surrounded by Wilderness
  - Forgot the power of Jehovah
  - Forgot His care for them.
- How does this happen (for us and for them)?
  - Idealizing the past
    - sat at meat pots; bread to full
    - vs. slavery and oppression
  - Dissatisfied with the present
    - all they can see is wilderness
    - trouble and obstacles
  - Losing Hope for the Future
    - Not even thinking of the promised land
    - No end in sight



- Why is this grumbling sinful?
  - 1 Corinthians 10:10: we must not ... nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer.
  - Philippians 2:14-16 (ESV) 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.
  - James 5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.



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- Gratitude
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:18: give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- Contentment
  - Philippians 4:11: Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.



# Jehovah Heard



- Jehovah Heard

- 4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to 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 they will walk in my law or not.
- 8 And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

## Jehovah Heard



- 9 Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.”
- 11 And the LORD said to Moses, 12 “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel.

# Jehovah Heard



- Jehovah hears our grumbling ...
  - how much more our prayers for help?
  - Why do we sometimes think that God doesn't hear us?

# Jehovah Heard



- What Did Jehovah hear?
  - We need food.
    - Was this a legitimate problem?
  - We are desperate.
    - We don't see any solution in the wilderness. (rabbits and lizards)
  - We don't see Jehovah helping us right now.
    - Lack of Trust
    - Lack of Honor
- What did Jehovah do ...



- What does Jehovah do when Israel is grumbling?
- Rain Bread
  - Exodus 16:4: Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to 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 they will walk in my law or not.
  - God chose to feed his people even when they doubted him.
  - He has a plan!



- The Generosity of our God: Power and Glory
  - 6-7 So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, 7 and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?”
  - 13 In the evening quail came up and **covered** the camp, and in the morning dew lay **around the camp**.



- 16 This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, **as much as he can eat**. You shall each take **an omer**, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’”
- 18 But when they measured it with an omer, whoever **gathered much had nothing left over**, and whoever **gathered little had no lack**. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.



- Matthew 7:7-11 (ESV) 7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 9 Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? 11 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!





- James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.



- They should have trusted that Jehovah would take care of them in the wilderness.
  - Think noble thoughts of Jehovah!
  - How has God blessed you today?



- Testing the People
  - 4 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to 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 they will walk in my law or not.**

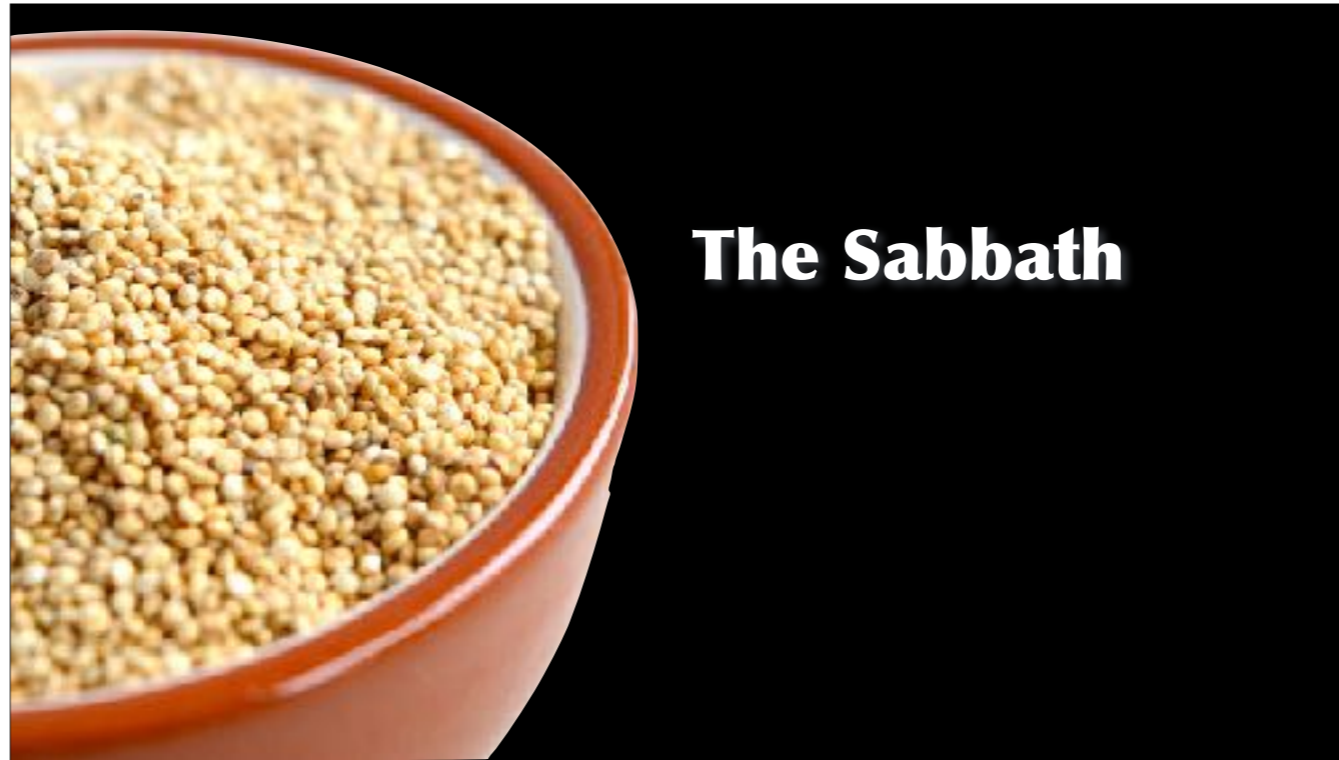


- 16 This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’”
- 17 And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less.
- 19 And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.”

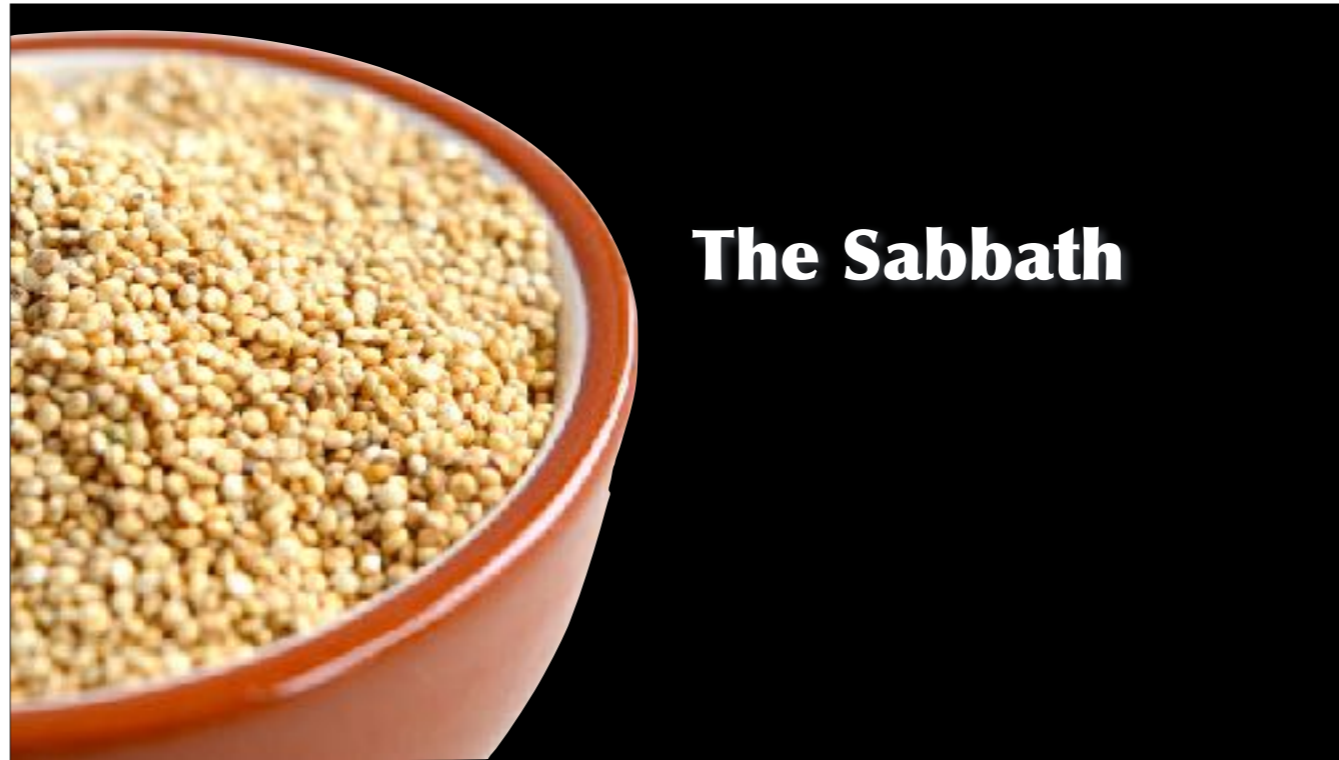




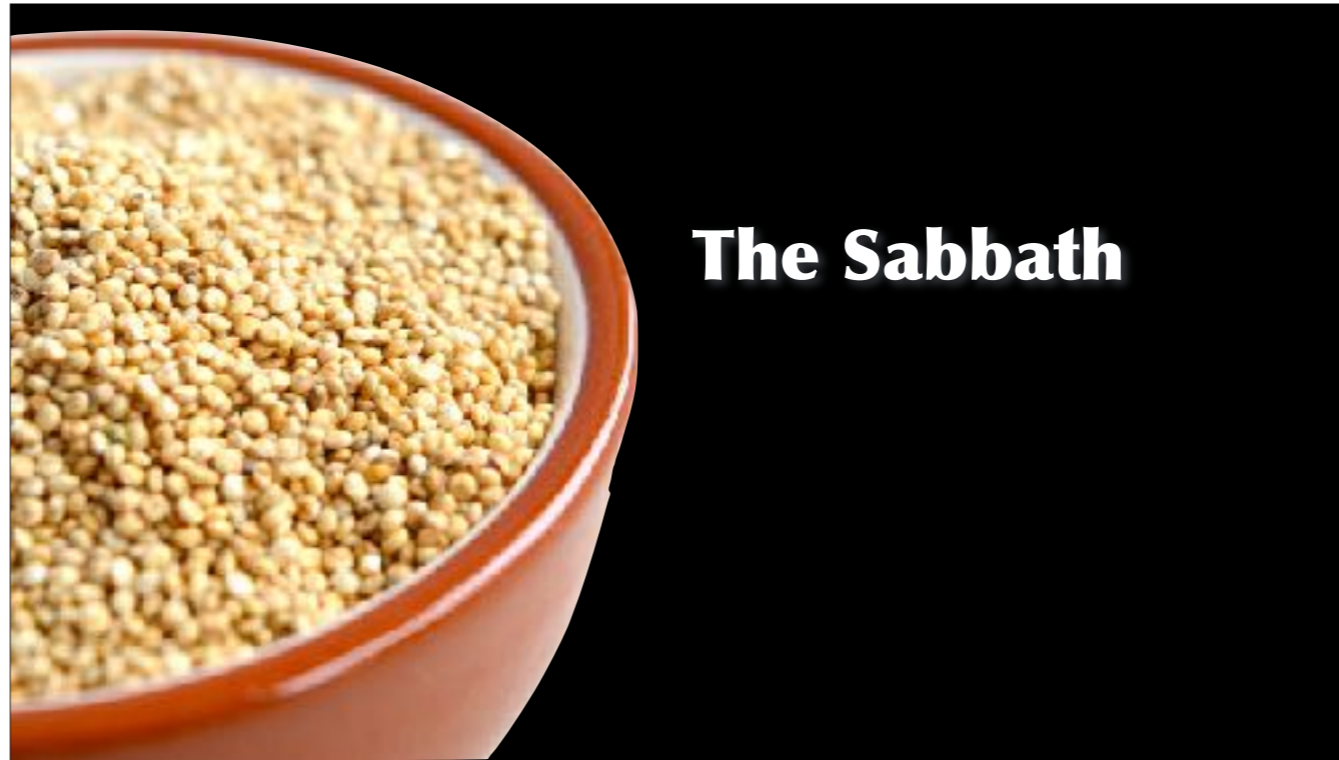
- 20 But **they did not listen** to Moses.
  - Some left part of it till the morning,
  - and it bred worms and stank.
- And Moses was angry with them.



- Exodus 16:22-30 (ESV)
- 22 On the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers each.
- And when all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses,
  - 23 he said to them, “This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD; bake what you will bake and boil what you will boil, and all that is left over lay aside to be kept till the morning.’”

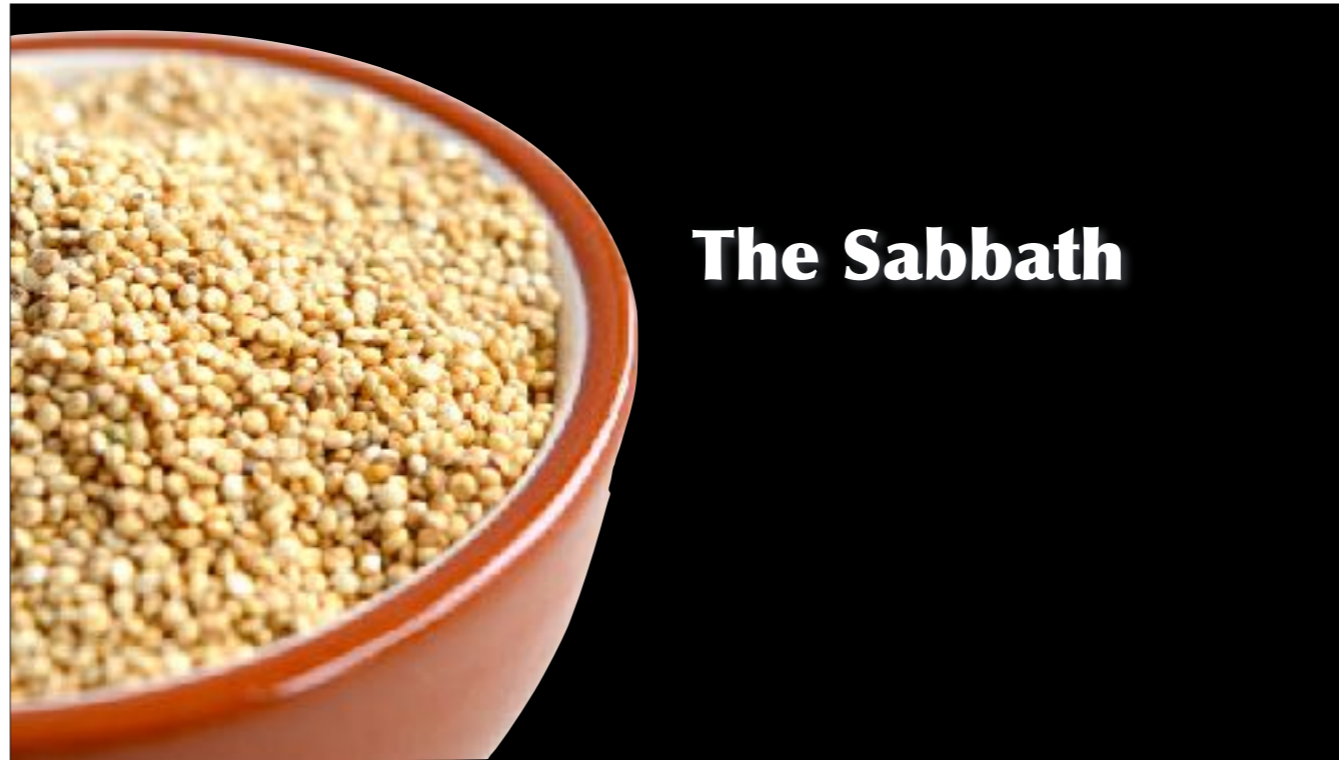


- 24 So they laid it aside till the morning,
  - as Moses commanded them,
  - and it did not stink, and there were no worms in it.
- 25 Moses said, “Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field.”
  - 26 Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none.”



- 27 On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, but they found none.
  - (And was there grumbling against Jehovah???)





- 28 And the LORD said to Moses,
  - “How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and my laws?
  - 29 See! The LORD has given you the Sabbath;
  - **therefore on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days.**
  - Remain each of you in his place; let no one go out of his place on the seventh day.”
  - 30 So the people rested on the seventh day.



- The Power and Glory of Jehovah!
  - Sabbath Rest ... do no work
  - Jehovah makes it possible to live and obey his laws
    - There's not an either/or.
    - He's generous! Bountiful.
    - Manna lasted another day (no stink, no worm)
      - Why just on Sabbath? God!



- Trust and Obey
  - Jehovah will provide for us in the wilderness
  - Jehovah's laws are for our good





- Spiritual Application
- Deuteronomy 8:1-5 (ESV)
  - 1 “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers.
  - 2 And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.



- 3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
- 4 Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.
- 5 Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.





- Does our Father still humble us? Discipline us?
- Does he test us to see if we obey him and follow him?
- Do we respond with trust and obedience to his gracious, generous care?



- Feeding 5000: bread and fish
  - Matthew 14:14: compassion - healed sick
  - Mark 6:34: compassion - teach them many things
  - tested disciples - feed them

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- John 6:35-40 (ESV) 35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. 36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”



**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## Raining Bread

Exodus 16

Synopsis: The grumbling for lack of food was heard by Jehovah and he demonstrated (again) his power and glory by providing manna and quail. But it was also a test of the people's faithfulness. God shows himself to be generous, and so desires that we trust him and obey him while following him through the wilderness.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**