

They must not save any from one day for the next: We might tend to think that our "bread from the earth" (regular physical sustenance) is acquired solely through our own effort. Although we believe that everything is truly in God's hand, we still entertain the notion that our own physical effort also plays a role, even if only because it is God's desire that we work for our living. In contrast, manna, the bread from heaven, left no room for such misconceptions. Manna was clearly not acquired by human effort, but was rather bestowed by God as a gift.

For this reason, God did not allow the people to collect more than one day's worth of manna at a time. If He had allowed them to collect food for several days at once, this would have left room for some feelings of self-assuredness. During those days that the pantry was full, the people would not feel dependent upon God. The very point of manna, therefore, was to serve as a test to see if the people could throw themselves completely at God's mercy, ending each day with nothing but their reliance on God to provide for them on the morrow as He had done today.⁸⁴

On the other hand, the manna prepared the Jews for their eventual entry into the real world. The manna taught them that sustenance comes from heaven; even when it appears to be the fruit of one's labor, it is in fact a gift from God. Therefore, although the manna was entirely heavenly, and they were only to collect enough for one day at a time and rely upon God to provide more the next day, some degree of human involvement was required in collecting it. If the manna had not required any human effort, the people would not have applied its lesson to their earthly existence once out of the desert. They would have written the manna off as an isolated, miraculous phenomenon, irrelevant to real life. By being somewhat involved in collecting the manna, they learned that human effort and Divine beneficence are not mutually exclusive.⁸⁵