

In verses 26-29 we have an interesting parenthetical event. Two of these selected assistants were detained in the camp for some reason, yet when the Spirit of God rested upon the others He came upon them also, and they prophesied in the camp. When the news of this reached Joshua, the servant of Moses, he felt envy for his master's reputation. What would the people think if they found these two men assuming such leadership as had previously been restricted to Moses? In Moses' answer we see the greatness of the man. He did not envy others who might rise to positions of supremacy. His whole desire was that the work of God should go forward. He said, Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them! (29). What an example for each of us, if God puts us in a position of leadership in Christian service! It is so easy to become jealous as a new man advances.

Verses 31-32 describe the complete fulfillment of God's unbelievable promise to supply more meat than the people could possibly consume. The Lord sent a great wind which brought tremendous numbers of quails around the camp so that the people had only to go out and strike them down. This was very easy to do, as they flew about two cubits above the ground, almost blinded by the great wind that drove them inland. These quails are a type of partridge, about 7 1/2 inches long, generally brown in colour. They migrate twice a year, arriving in Palestine in great numbers in March, and coming southward again in the autumn. Occasionally, when the wind changes its course, or the birds become exhausted from the long flight, the entire flock will fall to the ground. Sometimes as a result they are captured in great quantities on the coasts or islands of the Mediterranean Sea. A similar event at an earlier time in the wilderness journey is described in Ex. xvi. The Israelites ate the birds uncooked. Those which they could not eat at once they spread around the camp, in order to dry them in the sun (32). Ps. lxxviii. 26-31 gives a poetic description of this event.