

The גמרא writes that the מן was covered with dew on top and on the bottom. The טור explains that this is the reason that the חלה is covered on שבת, in order that it resemble the מן. This fits in well with the concept that all food is a מתנה from the רבונו של עולם. When the מן first fell, a piece was set aside and saved in a glass case. This מן was later used by ירמיהו to rebuke כלל ישראל (מכילתא). He asked them why they were not learning תורה כלל. כלל ישראל replied that they needed to earn a living. ירמיהו then pulled out the מן and said that just as ה' provided for the דור המדבר, He will provide for you as well. But there is an obvious question here. Why would ירמיהו show כלל ישראל something that was a one time (albeit for forty years) occurrence? ירמיהו was not promising that מן would fall again, so why was he using the מן as an example, as the מן was just an exceptional experience? ירמיהו was not saying that if they learned תורה the מן would fall once again. He was saying that when כלל ישראל does the right thing, ה' takes care of them, and that while for one generation this means מן falling from שמים, for other generations this means increased support in any number of ways (increased agricultural bounty, increase in the stock market, etc.). The מן was just a means to an end, the end being the continued support of the רבונו של עולם. This is why the מן was saved in glass, and this is what we remind ourselves of every שבת, that ה' always provides for us.