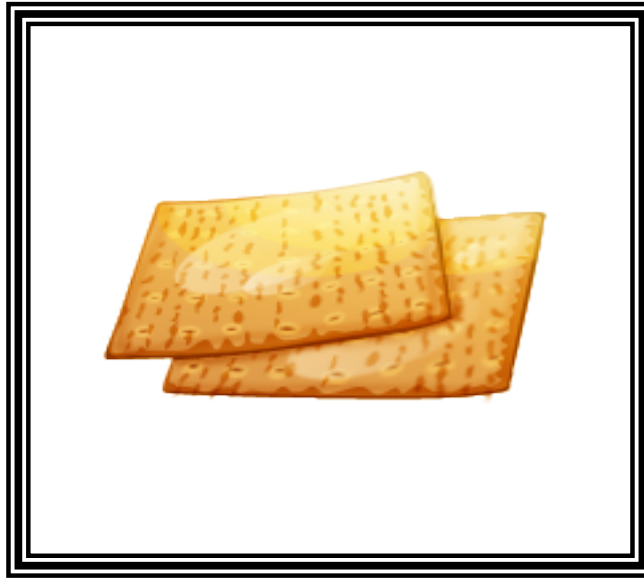


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# Portrait Of The Bread



**John 6:31-35; 48:51, 58**

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## **A PORTRAIT OF THE BREAD**

**JOHN 6:31-35; 48-51; 58**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**THE HUMAN BODY HAS A REMARKABLE ABILITY TO ASSIMILATE ALL MANNER OF FOODS.**

**NO MATTER WHAT THE VARIETY OF A PERSON'S TASTES, THE FOODS ONE EATS ARE DIGESTED AND ASSIMILATED INTO BLOOD, BONE, FLESH, ETC.**

**THE BODY SURVIVES ON A VARIETY OF FOODS BUT WILL EXIST FOR PERIODS OF TIME ON ONE FOOD.**

**BREAD IS OFTEN CALLED, "*THE STAFF OF LIFE*", BECAUSE IT CONTAINS ALMOST ALL THE NUTRITION NEEDED FOR THE HUMAN BODY.**

**JESUS TALKED ABOUT THE "BREAD OF LIFE" AND I WANT US TO FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON *THIS* BREAD.**

#### **I. THE BREAD OF LIFE IS HEAVENLY BREAD (JOHN. 32-33 & 50)**

**EVERYONE HERE KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT BREAD. MAYBE EVERYONE HERE ATE OR WILL EAT SOME BREAD TODAY.**

**SEVERAL OF YOU HAVE, ON SOME OCCASION, BAKED BREAD.**

**WE KNOW ABOUT BREAD. THERE ARE SEVERAL OBVIOUS CONTRASTS BETWEEN HEAVENLY BREAD AND EARTHLY BREAD.**

**YOU MAY THINK OF OTHERS BUT, LET ME SITE SEVERAL.**

- 1. EARTHLY BREAD IS MAN MADE; HEAVENLY BREAD IS GOD MADE.**
- 2. EARTHLY BREAD MUST BE EATEN REGULARLY; HEAVENLY BREAD IS EATEN ONLY ONCE.**
- 3. EARTHLY BREAD HAS MANY EARTHLY INGREDIENTS; HEAVENLY BREAD HAS ONE HEAVENLY INGREDIENT.**
- 4. EARTHLY BREAD IS BAKED IN MAN'S OVEN; HEAVENLY BREAD IS PREPARED IN HEAVEN.**

**THE PEOPLE IN THE TEXT SHOULD HAVE UNDERSTOOD MORE ABOUT HEAVENLY BREAD.**

**THEY HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR FOREFATHERS AND MOSES BEING FED ON DAILY PORTIONS OF MANNA FROM HEAVEN.**

**THEY CALL ATTENTION TO THIS AS IT IS RECORDED IN [VERSE 31]. NO DOUBT IT HAD BEEN REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN HOW THEIR FOREFATHERS EXISTED ON THAT EXCLUSIVE DIET.**

**THEY HAD MANNA IN EVERY WAY THEY COULD DREAM UP...**

- BAKED MANNA,**
- FRIED MANNA,**
- BOILED**
- PICKLED**
- ON THE HALF SHELL**
- FOR DESSERT...**

- PINEAPPLE UPSIDE-DOWN MANNA
- OR BANANA MANNA!

**JESUS FED THOUSANDS EARTHLY BREAD IN [VERSES 4-9].  
BUT, THE BREAD OF LIFE IS THE BREAD OF HEAVEN.**

### **ILLUSTRATION**

**MANNA CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, AND THE BREAD OF  
LIFE CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN.**

**HOW? HOW DID THE BREAD OF LIFE COME DOWN FROM  
HEAVEN?**

**LUKE, THE PHYSICIAN, TELLS US, "...*THE HOLY SPIRIT  
SHALL COME UPON THEE, AND THE POWER OF THE HIGHEST  
SHALL OVERSHADOW THEE, ...*" THE VIRGIN BIRTH ASSURED  
THE BREAD OF LIFE TO BE HEAVENLY BREAD.**

**WE SHOULD TAKE OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK TO PEOPLE  
ABOUT SALVATION.**

**WE CAN ASK THEM "HOW DOES A PERSON GO TO  
HEAVEN?"**

**GET THEM TO TELL YOU WHAT THEIR THOUGHT IS  
RELATED TO SALVATION.**

**THE ANSWER GIVEN WILL TELL YOU IF THEIR VIEW OF  
THE BREAD OF LIFE IS AN EARTHLY OR HEAVENLY.  
APPLICATION .**

**EARTHLY BREAD SAYS, "BE BAPTIZED, JOIN THE CHURCH,  
DO GOOD WORKS, MAKE REFORMS ETC."**

**HEAVENLY BREAD SAYS, "...*BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS  
CHRIST AND THOU SHALL BE SAVED,...*" [ACTS 16:31]**

**THE BREAD OF LIFE IS HEAVENLY BREAD.**

**I. THE BREAD OF LIFE IS HEAVENLY BREAD  
(JOHN. 32-33 & 50)**

**II. THE BREAD OF LIFE IS JESUS [VV. 35 & 48 & 51]**

**THERE ARE OVER (50) PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN JOHN CHAPTER 6. MANY OF THEM ARE EMPHASIZING JESUS AS THE BREAD OF LIFE.**

**FOR HIM TO SAY HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE WOULD BE BLASPHEMY IF IT WERE NOT SO.**

**NOTICE [VERSES 41 & 42] IT STATES THAT PEOPLE BEGAN TO MURMUR WHEN JESUS SAID, "...*I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE..*" BUT, OUR LORD SAID IT BECAUSE IT IS THE TRUTH.**

**JOHN RECORDS IN HIS GOSPEL SEVEN DIFFERENT "I AM" TITLES JESUS GAVE HIMSELF.**

**HERE HE SAYS:**

1. "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE."
2. "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD". JOHN 7:12
3. "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD: " JOHN 10:11
4. "I AM THE DOOR." JOHN 10:7 & 9;
5. "I AM THE RESURRECTION." JOHN 11:25;
6. "I AM THE WAY, TRUTH AND LIFE." JOHN 14:6;
7. AND "I AM THE TRUE VINE " JOHN 15:1

**THE GREEK LANGUAGE CONSTRUCTION PLACES THIS "I AM" IN AN EMPHATIC POSITION.**

**WE COULD EASILY TRANSLATE "I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE AND NO ONE ELSE IS ."**

**JESUS DOESN'T ALLOW ROOM FOR COMPARISON.**

**IN SUBSTANCE HE SAYS IN [VERSE 32], "*I'M GREATER THAN THE PROPHETS.*"**

**THE WORDS OF [VERSES 53-57] ARE CALLED "*HARD SAYINGS*" BY THE DISCIPLES IN [VERSE 60].**

**BUT, JESUS IS SIMPLY REFERRING TO THE LORD'S SUPPER BECAUSE IT, AS YET, HAS NOT BEEN INSTITUTED.**

**THOSE WHO EAT HIS FLESH AND DRINK HIS BLOOD ARE TOLD THEY WILL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

**THE THIEF ON THE CROSS WAS GIVEN ETERNAL LIFE BUT, HE DID NOT EVER PARTAKE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.**

**THIS IS SYMBOLISM. EATING AND DRINKING ARE WAYS OF EXPRESSING A FULL ACCEPTANCE.**

**JESUS IS THE BREAD OF LIFE AND ALL SHOULD YIELD THEIR LIFE TO HIM.**

### **APPLICATION**

**TODAY MANY PEOPLE WITHOUT CHRIST LOOK FULL AND HAPPY TO THE UNTRAINED EYE. BUT, THEY HAVE A SERIOUS MALADY CALLED "UNBELIEF".**

**IT WILL CAUSE THEM TO SPEND ETERNITY IN HELL IF THEY DON'T REPENT AND RECEIVE JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE.**

- I. THE BREAD OF LIFE IS HEAVENLY BREAD  
(JOHN. 32-33 & 50)**
- II. THE BREAD OF LIFE IS JESUS [VV. 35 & 48 & 51]**
- III. THE BREAD OF LIFE IS ETERNAL BREAD  
[JOHN 50-51; 54-58]**
- A. WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE? IT IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE WHO RECEIVES JESUS AS THE BREAD OF LIFE. THIS IS ETERNAL BREAD AND IT IS EXPRESSED IN CONTRAST TO THE MANNA OF MOSES' DAY [V.58].**
- 1. MANNA HAD TO BE EATEN EVERY DAY.**
  - 2. THE BREAD OF LIFE IS A ONE TIME ETERNAL LIFE MEAL.**

**SOMETIMES CRITICISM COMES OUR WAY, AS SOMEONE SAYS, "YOU BELIEVE A DOCTRINE CALLED ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED."**

**I LIKE TO RESPOND, "NO, I BELIEVE IN ETERNAL LIFE."**

**THE SCRIPTURAL TERM IS NOT ONCE SAVED, ALWAYS SAVED, HOWEVER, THE LORD DOES SAY HE GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.**

**PLEASE NOTE OTHER VERSES IN THIS SIXTH CHAPTER. IN [VERSES 39], THE LORD SAYS, "*IT IS THE FATHER'S WILL. ...THAT OF ALL WHICH HE HATH GIVEN ME I SHOULD LOSE NOTHING...*"**

**[IN VERSE 40] JESUS FURTHER STATES, "*IT IS THE FATHER'S WILL, "...THAT EVERYONE WHICH SEETH THE SON, AND BELIEVETH ON HIM, HATH EVERLASTING LIFE...*"**

**NOW WHEN THOSE VERSES ARE SET ALONG SIDE OF [VERSE 54], IT IS OBVIOUS THE BREAD OF LIFE IS ETERNAL BREAD.**

**IN CONTRAST TO EARTHLY BREAD, IT IS CLEAR THIS BREAD OF LIFE IS ETERNAL. EARTHLY BREAD WILL MOLD AND DECAY.**

**THE EARTHLY MANNA WOULD STINK AND ATTRACT WORMS. THE HEAVENLY BREAD GIVES LIFE IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY.**

**IN [VERSE 35], THE WORDS "HUNGER AND THIRST" ARE IN AN EMPHATIC POSITION.**

***IT COULD BE TRANSLATED "SHALL NOT EVER HUNGER: AND "SHALL NOT EVER THIRST."* WHY? BECAUSE IT IS ETERNAL BREAD.**

**THIS BREAD IS CALLED "*TRUE BREAD*" IN [VERSE 32]; "*BREAD OF GOD*" IN [VERSE 33], "*BREAD OF LIFE*" IN [VERSE 35], "*BREAD FROM HEAVEN*" IN [VERSE 41] AND "*LIVING BREAD*" IN [VERSE 51].**

### **CONCLUSION**

**HOW DOES A PERSON GET THIS BREAD?**

**WE MUST ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE DRAWN BY THE FATHER TO THE SON.**

**DO YOU SENSE THE POWER OF GOD DRAWING YOU TO JESUS?**

**ARE YOU HUNGRY FOR THE BREAD OF LIFE?**

**IT IS A SIGN OF GOD QUICKENING YOUR SPIRIT WITH HIS.**

**THE HUMAN ELEMENT IS EXPRESSED AS YOU EXERCISE THE FAITH GOD GIVES TO YOU.**

**YOU MUST TAKE THE STEP OF FAITH AND ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS AS LORD.**

**THERE ARE FOUR RESULTS OF RECEIVING THIS BREAD OF LIFE:**

- 1. THE FIRST RESULT OF RECEIVING THE BREAD OF LIFE IS ETERNAL LIFE(54)**
- 2. THE SECOND RESULT OF RECEIVING THE BREAD OF LIFE IS TRUE SATISFACTION.**
  - a. JUST LIKE REAL LIFE COMES FROM EATING AND DRINKING ON EARTH, SO REAL AND ABUNDANT LIFE COMES FROM EATING AND DRINKING JESUS CHRIST. (55)**
- 4. THE THIRD RESULT OF RECEIVING THE BREAD OF LIFE IS THAT IT IS FULL OF PURPOSE, MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE.**
  - a. JESUS SAID I LIVE BECAUSE OF THE FATHER**
  - b. IF WE RECEIVE CHRIST, WE LIVE BECAUSE OF CHRIST.**
  - c. JESUS CALLED GOD “THE LIVING FATHER”. THIS MEANS THAT THE FATHER GIVETH THE SON LIFE.**
- 5. THE FOURTH RESULT OF RECEIVING CHRIST IS THAT WE RECEIVE INCORRUPTIBLE FOOD WITHIN OUR HEARTS, ENERGIZING OUR LIVES FOREVER.**
  - a. THE MANNA EATEN BY ISRAEL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT DID COME FROM THE CLOUDS ABOVE, BUT IT DID NOT GIVE LIFE TO THE PEOPLE THEY WERE ALL DEAD.**

**b. BUT, THE LORD HIMSELF IS THE BREAD  
WHICH COMETH DOWN FROM HEAVEN. IF  
YOU EAT OF THIS BREAD,(JESUS), YOU  
SHALL LIVE FOREVER.**

**THE POET EXPRESSED THIS WAY:**

**JESUS**

**"I'VE TRIED IN VAIN A THOUSAND WAYS  
MY FEARS TO QUELL, MY HOPES TO RAISE;  
BUT ALL I NEED, THE BIBLE SAYS,**

**IS JESUS.**

**MY SOUL IS NIGHT, MY HEART IS STEEL,  
I CANNOT SEE, I CANNOT FEEL,  
FOR LIFE, FOR LIGHT, I MUST APPEAL**

**TO JESUS.**

**HE DIED, HE LIVES, HE REIGNS, HE PLEADS,  
THERE'S LIFE IN ALL HIS WORDS AND DEEDS,  
ALL-ALL THE GUILTY SINNER NEEDS**

**IS JESUS.**

**THOUGH SOME WILL MOCK, THOUGH SOME WILL BLAME  
IN SPITE OF FEAR, IN SPITE OF SHAME,  
I'LL GO TO HIM, BECAUSE HIS NAME**

**IS JESUS.**

**HE LOOKED DOWN ON THE HUMAN RACE AND,**

- **HE SAW OUR SIN**

- **HE INVESTIGATED OUR CIRCUMSTANCES**
- **HE REALIZED OUR GUILT**
- **HE KNEW OUR DESPAIR**
- **HE WEIGHED OUR BURDENS**
- **HE WITNESSED OUR WEAKNESS**
- **HE SURVEYED OUR VALLEYS**
- **HE MEASURED OUR MOUNTAINS**
- **HE CALCULATED OUR LOSSES**
- **HE COMPREHENDED OUR SORROWS**
- **HE INVENTORIED OUR MISTAKES**
- **HE COUNTED OUR FAILURES**
- **HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS**
- **HE WAS BRUISED FOR OUR INIQUITIES**
- **HE WAS PIERCED FOR OUR GUILT**
- **HE SUFFERED FOR OUR SHAME**
- **HE WAS TORTURED FOR OUR SHORTCOMINGS**
- **HE WAS BEATEN FOR OUR WRONGS**
- **AND HE DIED FOR OUR SINS.**
- **HE DIED FOR PROUD**
- **HE DIED FOR HATEFUL**
- **HE DIED FOR CARELESS**
- **HE DIED FOR CORRUPT**

- **HE DIED FOR DEFILED**
- **HE DIED FOR PATHETIC**
- **HE DIED FOR RUTHLESS**
- **HE DIED FOR DECEITFUL**
- **BUT EARLY SUNDAY MORNING, HE ROSE WOTH ALL  
POWER IN HIS HAND.**