

Jesus is the Bread of Life

BREAD

Of all the Old Testament heroes, Moses was perhaps the greatest man of God. The law came through Moses. Moses performed great things in the sight of the Israelites, Amalekites, and before Pharaoh and all of Egypt. Just as we use the phrase "followers of Christ" to show that we follow the entire New Testament, the Pharisees called themselves "followers of Moses" to show that they followed the entire Old Testament (John 9:28). Of everything that Moses performed the Jews traditionally hold that the manna in the wilderness was Moses' greatest miracle. In Psalm 78, the writer, Asaph, says this manna was bread from heaven.

In John 6, people ask Jesus to perform a miracle so they may believe. They ask for bread from heaven quoting from Asaph's psalm (John 6:30-31). Then in verse 48, Jesus tells them that He is the bread of life--the true bread from heaven. Jesus contrasts Himself to the bread that Moses gave to the Israelites.

"I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die." John 6:48-50

Jesus is saying that even the greatest miracle Moses gave to them could not save them. But whoever eats of Christ's bread will not die.

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh. This is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the manna your fathers ate—and they died. The one who eats this bread will live forever." John 6:51, 58

Christ's bread is His body. He gave His flesh so the world may live forever. Luke 22:19, "This is my body which is given for you."

As we eat this bread that is from the earth, let us partake of Christ Himself Who is the true bread from heaven. And when we partake of Christ's body we will live forever. Let us remember that Christ is our true bread, not the bread of the earth. Christ is our sustenance. Christ is what we eat that lets us live forever. We cannot rely on the food of this earth, but on Christ's sacrifice: the true bread from heaven given for us.

FRUIT of the VINE

In the same passage in John 6, Jesus goes further to what He was saying by adding His blood which is the true drink. As Christ's body became sin, Christ's blood is our forgiveness of sins.

"Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day, 55 because My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink. 56 The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood lives in Me, and I in him. 57 Just as the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on Me will live because of Me." John 6:54-57

In one amazing sacrificial act, Christ brings eternal life for the world.