



Knowing Christ

Bread of Blessing

Sabbath to Passover

- ^{NAS} **John 6:1** After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberias)...⁴
Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand.







Jesus Planned This Ahead

- ^{NAS} **John 6:2** And a great multitude was following Him, because they were seeing the signs which He was performing on those who were sick. ³ And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples...⁵ Jesus therefore lifting up His eyes, and seeing that a great multitude was coming to Him, said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, that these may eat?" ⁶ And this He was saying to test him; for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.

Parallels to Moses

- ^{NAS} **John 6:2** And a great multitude was following Him, ...
- ^{NAS} **Exodus 12:37** Now the sons of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, aside from children. ³⁸ And a mixed multitude also went up with them ...
- ^{NAS} **John 6:3** And Jesus went up on the mountain ...
- ^{NAS} **Exodus 24:13** So Moses arose with Joshua his servant, and Moses went up to the mountain of God.

- ^{NAS} **John 6:11** Jesus therefore took the loaves; and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; ...
- ^{NAS} **Exodus 16:15** When the sons of Israel saw *it*, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat.
- ^{NAS} **Deuteronomy 18:15** "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.
- ^{NAS} **John 6:14** When therefore the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, "This is of a truth the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Jesus: A Far Better Prophet

- **NIV 2 Kings 4:42** A man came from Baal Shalishah, bringing the man of God twenty loaves of barley bread baked from the first ripe grain, along with some heads of new grain. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said. ⁴³ "How can I set this before a hundred men?" his servant asked. But Elisha answered, "Give it to the people to eat. For this is what the LORD says: 'They will eat and have some left over.'" ⁴⁴ Then he set it before them, and they ate and had some left over, according to the word of the LORD.

- *where the [rabbis] enhance the number of men fed by Elisha to two thousand two hundred. "Every hundred men had their single loaf set before them." The Gloss is, "Twenty loaves, and the loaf of the first fruits, behold one-and-twenty; the green ear, behold two-and-twenty: these were all singly set, each of them before a hundred men; and so behold there were two thousand and two hundred fed."*
 - Rev. John Lightfoot 1602-1675

1 Loaf per Thousand

- ^{NAS} **John 6:12** And when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments that nothing may be lost." ¹³ And so they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten.
 - Elisha – one loaf per hundred (rabbinical tradition)
 - Jesus – one loaf per thousand
- ^{NAS} **1 Samuel 18:7** And the women sang as they played, and said, "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." ⁸ Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?"

Barley Bread: An Example of Humility

- Barley scarcely bore one-third of the value of wheat in the east: see Rev. vi. 6. That it was a very mean fare appears from Ezek. xiii. 19... And Plutarch...speaking concerning the flight of Artaxerxes Mnemon, says he was reduced to such distress as to be obliged to eat barley bread... From this and other circumstances we may plainly perceive that the self-denying doctrine preached by Christ and his apostles was fully exemplified in their own manner of living.
 - Adam Clarke, 1763-1832
- Let us learn then, we who give ourselves to luxury, what was the fare of those great and admirable men; and in quality and quantity let us behold and imitate the thriftiness of their table.
 - St. John Chrysostom, 349-407

Jesus our Shepherd

- ^{NAS} **John 6:1** After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee ... ² And a great multitude was following Him...³ And Jesus went up on the mountain... ⁵... and ... a great multitude was coming to Him...¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down...
- ^{ESV} **Psalm 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters...⁵ You prepare a table before me

Applications

The Curse is Being Reversed

- **NAS Genesis 3:19** By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Till you return to the ground...
- **NAS John 6:10** Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." ...So the men sat down ...¹¹ Jesus therefore took the loaves; and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; ... as much as they wanted. ¹² And when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments that nothing may be lost."

The Day of the Lord is Here

- ^{NAS} **Isaiah 30:18** Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him. ¹⁹ O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. ²⁰ Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher...²³ Then He will give you ... bread from the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plenteous....²⁵ And on every lofty mountain and on every high hill there will be streams running with water²⁶ And the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be seven times brighter, like the light of seven days...

Waiting for the Lord

- Lit **Isaiah 30:18** And therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he waits exalted to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.
 - God speaks of himself as standing ready to be gracious to his church, and to appear for its restoration, and only waiting for such an opportunity to bestow this mercy, when he shall hear the cries of his people for it, that he may bestow it in answer to their prayers.
 - Jonathan Edwards
 - 30:18 God will wait for His people, testing their hearts, and giving immediate grace and mercy to those who abide in Him. 30:20-23 Affliction is given by the Lord, the Physician of souls, to open blind eyes and deaf ears to the truth.
 - Orthodox Study Bible

Conclusions

Bread of Blessing

- ^{NIV} **Matthew 6:8** ... your Father knows what you need before you ask him.
- ^{NAS} **Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- ^{NAS} **1 John 5:14** And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.
- ^{NAS} **Romans 8:28** And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

The Lord will Provide

- ^{NAS} **Psalm 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. ³ He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me. ⁵ Thou dost prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; Thou hast anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Wait for the Lord

- Lit **Isaiah 30:18** And therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he waits exalted to show mercy to you. For the LORD is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.