

Introduction: From the first words of John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as fully God (John 1:1-2). And, He is the one who took on human flesh. Eugene Peterson expressed this as: 'The Word became flesh and blood and moved into our neighborhood' (John 1:14a, The Message). He did this so flesh and blood people could both experience who God IS and to know through their senses the power of God to set them free from sin and self. Peterson puts it this way: 'we saw with our own eyes the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish' (John 1:14b-c, The Message). *** Today we consider the first of seven self-revelations from Jesus as to who He IS and what He does, all beginning with the Divine Name: 'I AM'. *** Jesus first reveals Himself as The Bread of Life. Bread is the basic food of humanity. In the prayer Jesus gave His followers, it is the first petition they pray for themselves after offering three requests concerning God's perfection, Kingdom and will. In this first petition the members of a local church acknowledge their daily need for bodily sustenance to do The Father's will, then they petition Him to give them the necessary bread so all may do His will this day. *** In our passage, Jesus says He IS The Bread we all need to have life and the hope of resurrection. And, we have life IN Him, IF we are continually coming to Him AND believing He is our source of life. *** Now, let's look together at the details.

I. Those coming to Jesus, The Bread of Life, by being drawn by The Father, never hunger nor die, but they are raised.

(John 6:35-50)

A. Jesus is The Bread of Life and those always coming to Him never hunger nor thirst nor are expelled, but will be raised up in The Last Day. *(Verses 35-40)*

1. Jesus said to them, 'I AM The Bread of Life, anyone coming to Me in no way goes hungry and anyone believing IN Me in no way thirsts ever'. *(Verse 35)*

Bread of Life: Literally He said 'I, I (emphatically) am being' – the exact words used in the Greek translation of Exodus (3:14) – Moses at the burning bush.

Never hunger: Using the strongest expression available, Jesus says whoever is always coming to Him will never hunger!

Never thirst: Likewise, whoever is always believing IN Jesus will never thirst. Put together, all who always come to Jesus and believe IN Him will have necessary food and water.

2. 'But I said to y'all that y'all also have seen Me and you all are not believing'. *(Verse 36)*

Certain Jews: Not every Jew was believing Jesus. Some religious leaders were threatened by Him.

3. 'All that The Father has given to Me will come to Me, and anyone coming to Me in no way I will expel out'. *(Verse 37)*

The Father: In His gracious sovereignty, The Father empowers people who do not have the ability to come to Jesus in their own strength to come to Him.

Never expelled: Those who are empowered by The Father will never be cast away by Jesus: the third strong promise!

4. 'Because this is the will of My Father, that each one seeing The Son and believing IN Him may be having life everlasting and I (even I) will raise him up in The Last Day'. *(Verse 40)*

Will of Father: Father God will give eternal life and resurrection in The Last Day (of judgment) to each person who continually sees and believes IN His Son.

B. No one comes to Jesus IF not drawn by The Father to be raised; those who ate manna died but those eating The Bread of Life coming down from heaven do not die. *(Verses 41-50)*

1. Jesus answered and He said to them, 'Y'all must not murmur among yourselves'. *(Verse 43)*

Do not 'murmur': The Jewish leaders did not believe Jesus 'came down from heaven' (verses 38,41) because they thought Joseph was His only father. So they murmured against Him!

2. 'No one is being able to come to Me IF not The Father having sent Me may have drawn him, and I (even I) will raise him up in The Last Day. *(Verse 44)*

Father draws: Jesus will resurrect and take to Himself in The Last Day those whom Father God graciously draws to Jesus by empowering them to have faith beyond human capacity.

3. 'I, I (emphatically) am being The Bread of Life'. *(Verse 48)*

Bread of Life: Jesus restates His self-revelation about being The Bread of Life to set the stage for His comparison to the 'bread from heaven' given under Moses (Psalm 78:23-25).

4. 'The fathers of y'all ate in the wilderness the manna and they died'. *(Verse 49)*

Forty years: Jesus tells of God's miraculous provision of bread fifteen centuries earlier for forty years.

5. 'This is being The Bread which from heaven is coming down, that one from it may eat and not he may die'. *(Verse 50)*

Jesus IS Bread from heaven: Jesus says any who eat from Him, The Bread of Life coming down from heaven, may not die. In other words, the result of eating Jesus, The Bread of Life, is life!

Jesus is The Bread of Life come down from heaven

II. Jesus gave His flesh for the life of the world, those gnawing His flesh and drinking His blood are eternally dwelling IN Him with life, SO praise The Covenant God for salvation. *(John 6:51-59; Psalm 32:1-10)*

A. Jesus IS The Bread of Life who has come down from heaven to give His flesh for the life of the world, and whoever is gnawing His flesh and drinking His Blood will be raised. *(John 6:51-54)*

1. 'I, I (emphatically) am being The Living Bread which from the heaven has come down, IF any may eat of this bread he will live into eternity; but, and the bread which I (even I) will give the flesh of Me is being for the life of the world'. *(Verse 51)*

Living Bread: Now Jesus says He is The Living Bread coming down from heaven.

Promise of life: He makes a promise that any who may eat His Bread of Life will live forever.

For the world: Finally, His flesh He will give is for the life of the world. He will command His disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20) and send them to the ends of the earth in The Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

Jesus is The Bread of Life come down from heaven

2. Then Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I am saying to y'all, IF not y'all may eat of the flesh of The Son of Man and y'all may drink of His blood, not y'all are having life in yourselves'. (*Verse 53*)

Negatively expressed: He is speaking to the Jews who doubted Him and argued among themselves, so He speaks to them negatively of the positive promise.

3. 'Whoever is gnawing of My flesh and is drinking of My blood is having eternal life, and I (even I) will raise him up in The Last Day'. (*Verse 54*)

Positive: This is the third time Jesus has given the promise of resurrection. This time He gives it to those always gnawing (notice the strong word) His flesh and drinking His blood.

What: Non-Christians thought Christians were literally eating human flesh and drinking human blood in their worship – and they were scandalized! Jesus may be talking metaphorically here.

- B. His flesh is true food, His blood is true drink; and any who are gnawing and drinking are dwelling IN Jesus and will live into eternity. (*John 5:55-59*)

1. 'Because My flesh is being true food and My blood is being true drink'. (*Verse 55*)

True food and drink: When Jesus died on The Cross (gave His blood) it gave life (Leviticus 17:14) to those constantly coming to Him and believing IN Him. To follow up on the previous sentence, by saying His flesh and blood are true food, Jesus is talking about only Himself. This may be a prophetic foreshadowing of the sacrament of Communion. Many Christians believe the bread and wine become Jesus; others, that He is spiritually present in and around the elements.

2. 'He who is gnawing My flesh and drinking My blood, IN Me is dwelling and I in him'. (*Verse 56*)

Constantly abiding: Jesus is talking about more than the sacrament because the verbs are in the continuous present tense. This is one who is constantly spiritually dwelling in and believing IN Him – every minute of every day.

3. 'As He has sent Me, The Living Father, and I (even I) am living by The Father; also, he that is gnawing Me, also that (one) will live through Me'. (*Verse 57*)

As Jesus and Father: IN Jesus people are made right with His Father and receive Jesus' promise of eternal (John 3:16-18), abundant (John 10:9-10), and meaningful (John 15:9-17) life. IN Jesus, spiritual death is reversed (verse 50).

4. 'Not as our fathers ate and they died, He that is gnawing this bread will live into eternity'. (*Verse 58*)

Jesus greater than manna: Manna came from heaven, but the people who ate it died. Jesus says He is The Bread come down from heaven and whoever constantly 'gnaws' on Him will have eternal life IN Him – starting now and forever!

Jesus is The Bread of Life come down from heaven

- C. Always praise The Covenant God because He delivers and saves, so fear Him and seek Him to not lack any good thing. (*Psalms 32:1-10*)

1. I will bless Yahweh in all time / continually His praise in my mouth // In Yahweh will make its boast my soul / they will hear, the afflicted, and be glad // You all must magnify Yahweh with me / and we will exalt His Name together. (*Verses 1-3*)

Pledge to praise: David pledges to praise His God who made a covenant with him (2 Samuel 7:11-13).

Joy to humble: David's praise will motivate those who are afflicted, lowly, meek and humble to joy.

Group exaltation: Then he commands them to join him in magnifying and exalting The Name (God).

2. I have sought Yahweh and He has answered me / and from all my fears He has delivered me. (*Verse 4*)

Testimony: David testifies from experience that seekers of God will be delivered from 'fear of man'.

3. They have looked to Him and they have been radiant / and their faces will not be ashamed. (*Verse 5*)

They glow: They beheld David's God intently, so they glowed with radiance, as Moses with God (Exodus 34:29-35).

4. This afflicted (one) had cried and Yahweh has heard / and from all his troubles He had saved him. (*Verse 6*)

Testimony: David calls himself afflicted and poor, but when he cried to Yahweh, Yahweh healed him from affliction by saving him.

Praise comes from God's healing of the poor

5. Encamping The Angel of Yahweh round about / those fearing Him then he rescued them. (*Verse 7*)

Angel of Yahweh: The Angel of Yahweh is Jesus before His incarnation, when He was only spirit. Even then, He rescued those always reverently fearing Him.

6. Y'all must taste and y'all must see that good is Yahweh / happy is the man who will trust in Him. (*Verse 8*)

Invitation: With two metaphorical commands to 'taste' and 'see' the goodness of God, David invites all to trust Him and be blessed with happiness.

7. Y'all must fear Yahweh, His saints / because no need to those fearing Him // Young lions have been in want and been hungry / and those seeking Yahweh will not lack any good. (*Verses 9-10*)

Seek Yahweh: All fearing and seeking Yahweh will (positively put) have what is good, first and foremost, Him as their God.

Bottom line: Jesus – God who 'became flesh and blood and moved into our neighborhood', is the fulfillment of this Psalm of David, His human ancestor (Matthew 1:1-17).

Conclusion: People coming to Jesus, The Bread of Life who came down from heaven, being drawn by The Father to Him by continuous faith IN Him, will never hunger nor die, but will be raised to life. Jesus also gave His flesh for the life of the world so those chewing His flesh and drinking His blood are eternally dwelling IN Him with life. Because of this, all people may praise The Covenant God for salvation.

Jesus is The Bread of Life come down from heaven