

## Doctrine of Bread

1. The term “*bread*” is used in *Scripture* in a literal and symbolic way to speak of the sustenance of life and personal purity while enjoying a close fellowship with God.
2. During the days of their wilderness journey the Lord gave to Israel a double portion of manna or bread so they would not go hungry on the Sabbath nor violate the day with common labor for food.
  - *Exodus 16:29 See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.*
3. Bread became a sacred symbol when used by the children of Israel in the offerings so that it was called “*the bread of their God*”.
  - *Leviticus 21:6 They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.*
  - *Leviticus 21:8 Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth the bread of thy God: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, am holy.*
4. Those in the priestly tribe of Levi who had a blemish were not allowed to offer bread unto God.
  - *Leviticus 21:17 Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever he be of thy seed in their generations that hath any blemish, let him not approach to offer the bread of his God.*
  - *Leviticus 21:21 No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God.*
5. The priests who were found acceptable to God were allowed to eat bread in His presence and enjoy sweet fellowship.
  - *Leviticus 21:22 He shall eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy, and of the holy.*
6. Because the bread of the Israelites was symbolic of personal cleansing and fellowship, bread received from a stranger or a non-Israelite was not to be offered to God.
  - *Leviticus 22:25 Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer the bread of your God of any of these; because their corruption is in them, and blemishes be in them: they shall not be accepted for you.*

During the days of Nehemiah, this divine principle of prohibition would be practiced.

- *Nehemiah 5:14 Moreover from the time that I [Nehemiah] was appointed to be their governor in the land of Judah [c. 445 BC], from the twentieth year even unto the two and thirtieth year of [the Persian] Artaxerxes the king, that is, twelve years, I and my brethren have not eaten the bread of the governor.*
  - *Nehemiah 5:18 Now that which was prepared for me daily was one ox and six choice sheep; also fowls were prepared for me, and once in ten days store of all sorts of wine: yet for all this required not I the bread of the governor, because the bondage was heavy upon this people.*
7. Bread was incorporated in many of the sacrifices given to the Lord such as the wave offering and the heave offering.
- *Leviticus 23:20 And the priest shall wave them with the bread of the firstfruits for a wave offering before the LORD, with the two lambs: they shall be holy to the LORD for the priest.*
  - *Numbers 15:19 Then it shall be, that, when ye eat of the bread of the land, ye shall offer up an heave offering unto the LORD.*
8. A particular type of bread, that which was unleavened, became an object lesson for the Israelites commemorating the night of the Passover.
- *Deuteronomy 16:3 Thou shalt eat no leavened bread with it; seven days shalt thou eat unleavened bread therewith, even the bread of affliction; for thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt in haste: that thou mayest remember the day when thou camest forth out of the land of Egypt all the days of thy life.*
9. During the days of Joshua bread was used among other items Hivites to deceive the Israelites into a political treaty that was not in the Hebrew's best interests.
- *Joshua 9:5 And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy.*
10. The term "bread of affliction" became a metaphorical way of referring to personal hardships such as imprisonment as the prophet Micaiah discovered at the hands of the last ruler of Judah, King Zedekiah (597 BC - 586 BC).
- *1 Kings 22:27 And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.*

11. David spoke of the “*bread of tears*” which his generation was experiencing due to divine discipline for sins of the saints.

- *Psalms 80:5 Thou feedest them with the bread of tears; and givest them tears to drink in great measure.*

12. Because there are spiritual lessons to be learned from pain and suffering the Christian is not to draw back from eating the “bread of adversity” when it comes.

- *Isaiah 30:20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:*

13. When bread is scarce it should still be shared with those who have nothing to eat according to the will of the Lord. Such was the teaching of the prophet Elisha.

- *2 Kings 4:42 And there came a man from Baal-shalisha, and brought the man of God [Elisha] bread of the firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley, and full ears of corn in the husk thereof. And he said, Give unto the people, that they may eat. 43 And his servitor said, What, should I set this before an hundred men? He said again, Give the people, that they may eat: for thus saith the LORD, They shall eat, and shall leave thereof. 44 So he set it before them, and they did eat, and left thereof, according to the word of the LORD.*

14. Remembering the origin of bread can produce precious spiritual memories. David remembered how the Exodus generation was hungry. The people pleaded with God and He sent them the bread of heaven.

- *Psalms 105:40 The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.*

The Lord is still willing to feed those who ask of Him.

“Like the woman at the well I was seeking  
For things that could not satisfy,  
And then I heard my Savior speaking  
Draw from my well that never shall run dry.

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up, Lord  
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul  
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more  
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

There are millions in this world  
who are craving The pleasures earthly things afford  
But none can match the wondrous treasure  
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord.

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up, Lord  
 Come and quench this thirsting of my soul  
 Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more  
 Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up, Lord  
 Come and quench this thirsting of my soul  
 Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more  
 Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.”

15. There is a bread of sorrow for those who worry but it is not the will of the Lord that His children should eat of it. The Lord gives His beloved rest.

- *Psalms 127:2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.*

16. As there is a type of bread associated with the righteous so there is a “bread of wickedness” which many eat and are nourished by.

- *Proverbs 4:17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.*

17. One type of “bread” the wicked eat is that of being deceitful. But the bread of deceit does not satisfy.

- *Proverbs 20:17 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.*

Abraham deceived Abimelech and lost respect with the king (Genesis 20:9, 10). The sin of deceitfulness was passed on to his son Isaac as reflected in Genesis 26:9.

Passing on down to the third generation the story is record of Jacob’s deceit of his blinded father Isaac in (Gen. 27:21ff). The result of this deception was a fearing for his life at the hands of an angry brother, the need to flee form the family and finally his own deception at the hands of his father-in-law.

18. Because bread speaks of fellowship the gospel command comes not to fellowship with those whose heart are inclined to evil.

- *Proverbs 23:6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:*

19. One of the great virtues of a godly woman is that she does not eat “the bread of idleness” but is busy keeping a good house.

- *Proverbs 31:27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.*

20. When a nation is blessed of God one sign of that divine favor is an increase in the harvest.

- *Isaiah 30:23 Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.*

21. In contrast, when there is sin to be mourned over, there should be a time of fasting. Ezekiel called upon his generation to repent and fast.

- *Ezekiel 24:17 Forbear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men.*
- *Ezekiel 24:22 And ye shall do as I have done: ye shall not cover your lips, nor eat the bread of men.*

22. There are times when God is so angry with His people that sin willfully He does not want nor will he accept their bread offerings, symbolic of sweet communion with Himself. Hosea was told to tell the people of His generation to offer God a ‘bread of mourning.’

- *Hosea 9:4 They shall not offer wine offerings to the LORD, neither shall they be pleasing unto him: their sacrifices shall be unto them as the bread of mourners; all that eat thereof shall be polluted: for their bread for their soul shall not come into the house of the LORD.*

23. Jesus used bread in one of His parables to demonstrate how God the Father is willing to give good gifts to those who ask of Him.

- *Luke 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?*

24. Because bread is such a vital staple of life the Lord spoke of Himself as being life itself.

- *John 6:33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.*
- *John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*
- *John 6:48 I am that bread of life.*

25. Our hearts feast on Christ and are satisfied. “Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Corinthians 5:8). Indeed, let us keep the feast of fellowship with the Lord.

“Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,  
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;  
My spirit pants for Thee, O living Word!

Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,  
As Thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;  
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;  
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

Thou art the bread of life, O Lord, to me,  
Thy holy Word the truth that saveth me;  
Give me to eat and live with Thee above;  
Teach me to love Thy truth, for Thou art love.

O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,  
That He may touch my eyes, and make me see:  
Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word,  
And in Thy Book revealed I see the Lord.”