

## I Am the Bread of Life; John 6:48-51

### I. I Am

- A. This is one of the most recognizable phrases to an Israelite — Exodus 3:13–15
- B. In the Hebrew language the phrase ‘I am’ is the verb ‘to be’ — “I shall be who I shall prove to be”<sup>1</sup>
- C. This is a definitive statement of God and His name that is “to be remembered throughout all generations”
- D. Jesus uses this phrase many times in the New Testament (even some that are hard to recognize)
  - 1. When Jesus is walking on water he tells his apostles, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid” — the same greek words as I AM, just in reverse order
  - 2. John records many I AM statements, but over the course of the next few weeks, we will be looking at 7 of them
  - 3. When Jesus uses this phrase it is a definitive statement of who Jesus is in relation to God — John 6:48

### II. Moses

- A. Manna in the wilderness — John 6:25-31; Exodus 16:31–36.
- B. God gave them enough manna to feed 2.4 million people every day (double the amount on the day of preparation so no one would have to pick up manna on the Sabbath)
  - 1. Mina, Saudi Arabia — 3 million people, 625 square miles
  - 2. Houston, Texas — 2.3 million people, 627 square miles
  - 3. Plainview, Texas — 21 thousand people, 14 square miles
- C. Water in the wilderness (Exodus 17:1-7)
  - 1. Every day they were in the wilderness for 40 years God provided manna and water for them
  - 2. They would wake up in the morning, go outside and gather manna that had appeared on the ground like the dew of the morning
  - 3. They would go gather water for whatever the source was that God had provided for them
  - 4. Never a second thought about where their next meal or drink was coming from (they did grumble about water a few times)
  - 5. Every morning we wake up and turn on the light expecting it to come on — never a second thought about it (unless it doesn’t come on)
  - 6. This was a 40 year long miracle!
- D. John 6:32–35

### III. The Bread of Life

- A. Jesus equates Himself with the manna that God gave them in the wilderness (Just like His is the living water and the rock from the wilderness) — 1 Corinthians 10:4
- B. Jesus miracle with the fish and the loaves preceded this in John 6:1-14
  - 1. Jesus takes 5 barley loaves and 2 fish and turns it into a feast for 5000+ people (with leftovers)
  - 2. This is on the same scale as God providing manna for Israel in the wilderness
  - 3. I don’t think it is coincidence that Jesus uses the manna in the wilderness as an illustration right after He feeds all of them with 5 loaves and 2 fish
- C. John 6:48–51
- D. A beautiful foreshadow of Jesus crucifixion
- E. His earthly death will provide us a heavenly life
- F. We celebrate His sacrifice every week
  - 1. The bread that we eat is Jesus’ body (flesh) 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

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<sup>1</sup> Ludwig Koehler et al., The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994–2000), 244.

2. When we eat the bread we are making a definitive statement about who Jesus is (the great I AM)
  3. When we eat the bread we are letting the world know that He is the Bread of Life — He is our sacrifice — He gives us eternal life!
- IV. The Living Bread
- A. Jesus admonishes the crowd for following Him because he fed them fish and bread
  - B. Jesus wants them (us) to eat the Living Bread
  - C. To proclaim Him as the great I AM