

March 31, 2019

“I AM...”

“All That God Promises to Be for You!”

“God replied to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel. I AM has sent me to you.’” Exodus 3:14

“I AM the Bread of Life”

“God Will Fill All Your Needs!”

“Jesus replied, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry again. Whoever believe in Me will never be thirsty.’” John 6:35

### A. Bread in biblical culture...

“But Jesus told him, ‘No! The Scriptures say, “People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’” Matthew 4:4

1. “Bread as ordinary daily food. Ancient man of Bible times had a simple diet including the important element of bread. The early Hebrews counted it along with water as vital for daily existence, a food which was normally eaten at home or taken on a journey. Without it, the Israelite felt his life was in danger. Bread was counted as the staff of life (called “the staff of bread,” “the whole stay of bread”). The NT emphasis is placed on the necessity of bread for the daily life, as seen in the ministry of Jesus when He quoted a portion of Deuteronomy 8:3 to Satan and later showed concern for the food needs of the 5,000 and of the 4,000. The reference in the Lord’s Prayer to bread certainly stresses the human dependence on a daily supply of bread (cf. also the manna supplied in the wilderness).”  
\*Encyclopedia of the Bible

2. Bread was used in worship as the Bread of Presence in the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle.

“Place the Bread of the Presence on the table to remain before Me at all times.” Exodus 25:30

3. Bread from Heaven or manna fed the Israelites in the wilderness daily.

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow My instructions.’” Exodus 16:4

4. Bread was a key component of the Passover and then the Lord’s Supper.

“Celebrate this Festival of Unleavened Bread, for it will remind you that I brought your forces out of the land of Egypt on this very day.” Exodus 12:17a

“As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then He broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, ‘Take this and eat it, for this is My body.’” Matthew 26:26

### B. Jesus chose bread to illustrate His presence...

1. Jesus fed the five thousand with bread. He then withdrew to a solitary place.

“Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and distributed them to the people. Afterward He did the same with the fish. And they all ate as much as they wanted.” John 6:11

2. Jesus walked on water to reach the disciples. He identified Himself as “I AM.”

“But He said to them, ‘It is I; don’t be afraid.’” John 6:20 NIV

3. The crowd caught up with Jesus to receive more of the benefits but Jesus spoke to them of eternal life.

“Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, you want to be with Me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. But don’t be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given Me the seal of His approval.’” John 6:26-27

4. Jesus makes the declaration, “I AM the bread of life!”

“Jesus replied, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty.’” John 6:35

### C. Jesus chose bread because...

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. Yes, I am the bread of life!” John 6:47-48

1. He is necessary for life.
2. He represents eternal life not physical life.
3. “I AM” is represented throughout Scripture.
4. He is the only one who can fill the need of hunger and thirst.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” Matthew 5:6 NIV

### D. Jesus will meet all your needs...

1. Jesus didn’t necessarily come to satisfy all our physical desires, but to change them at our core.
2. Jesus came to change our desires...so He could become our primary desire.
3. Jesus came to fill the deep need we all have...that deep need that can only be filled by Jesus.
4. We all have needs, emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually that can only be filled by Jesus.

“And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19

Next Week: April 7:

“I Am the Light” John 8:12

“God will bring brighter days!”