

## The words of Isaiah

Many of the things Jesus said were quotes from the Old Testament. He was speaking about Himself as the fulfillment of the prophetic Scriptures. We recall the account of Him walking with the two disciples on the Emmaus Road. 'Beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.' And further to this, He said to the disciples, 'All things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled'.

The prophet Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord and spoke of Him. Accordingly, Jesus often quoted the words of Isaiah. For example, 'Who has believed our report and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?'. In a similar way, Jesus proclaimed Himself to be 'the bread of life' in fulfillment of Isaiah's teaching that the word of God furnishes bread to the eater. It is quite evident that Jesus built His address on the bread of heaven upon the words of the prophet Isaiah in chapter fifty-five.

The great prophet said, 'Why do you spend money for what is not bread?'. Accordingly, Jesus said to Phillip, 'Where shall we buy bread that these may eat?'. Jesus said this to test him, 'for He Himself knew what He was intending to do'. Jesus intended to teach His disciples a number of things. We are mortal and perishing and we need bread from heaven. However, we need much more than a miraculous provision of bread like the manna in the wilderness. The words of Jesus are the 'true bread' out of heaven. He said, 'If anyone eats of *this bread*, he will live forever'.

### References:

Isa 53:1      Isa 6:1-5  
Isa 55:2      John 12:38  
John 6:5-6, 51  
Luke 24:27, 44

### Further Study

John 6:41-51

### Daily Psalm

Psalm 53

## Coming to Him

The prophet Isaiah wrote, 'Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live'. In the same way, Jesus said to the multitude, 'He who comes to Me shall not hunger'. We come to Him to receive the bread of life. Many of the people were 'coming to Him' because they saw His signs. However, we must 'come to Him' to be His disciples. When we are born from above by the word of the Father, He immediately gives us to the Son to be His disciples. By this means, we come to Jesus so that He can raise us up at the last day. Jesus said, 'All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me'.

We come to Him because He is the only source of eternal life. He is the 'living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever'. We are becoming aware of the gravity of this saying. When we eat this living bread, the flesh of Christ, we are laying hold of His incorruptible body and making it our own. This bread is renewing our inner man and preparing us for the voice of the Son of Man in the last day.

After their initial enthusiasm, many of the people were confronted and offended by the words of Jesus about the bread of life. He was a 'stone of stumbling and a rock of offence' to them. We must receive His words and come to Him as the chosen and precious cornerstone. He who believes in Him will not be disappointed, because Jesus said, 'I Myself will raise him up on the last day'.

### References:

Isa 55:3  
John 6:2, 35, 37, 40, 51  
1 Pet 2:8

### Further Study

1 Pet 2:1-12

### Daily Psalm

Psalm 54

## The true bread

The true bread out of heaven is the bread of God. This is the very zoe-life of the Father given to us in the Son. Jesus was the pre-existent Son who laid down every prerogative to express His own intrinsic life. Having emptied Himself to the Father's bosom, He was fully committed to reveal the Father's life in the body prepared for Him. In this way, He is the firstborn of the Father's right hand. He is the heir of all things. Having stepped down from His glorious, original and intrinsic throne, He became the bread of God coming down from heaven. Jesus was sent by the Father to be the author of eternal salvation and sonship. He did not come to manifest Himself.

Let's recall the words of Paul that if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation. When Jesus stood among them as the bread of life, He was the new creation. Having taken up the likeness of sinful flesh, He was, nevertheless, substantially different to us. He was mortal and yet incorruptible. He laid down His life, but He was in no way 'death-doomed'. It was impossible for death to hold Him. Accordingly, He is the source and supply of eternal life for everyone who receives His word.

The bread that the Son gives us is His flesh, His body. Jesus said, 'The bread which I give for the life of the world is My flesh'. It is the only provision for the life of the world. When we speak of 'life', we mean eternal life, here and now, and resurrection life in the age to come. When we receive Him and eat the bread of life, we are being prepared for the day of resurrection.

### References:

Heb 5:5  
John 6:38, 51  
2 Cor 5:17

### Further Study

2 Cor 5

### Daily Psalm

Psalm 55

## The works of God

The apostle John began His gospel account by saying, 'In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word became flesh'. And further to this, 'In Him was life'. Jesus was the very substance of the Father's zoe-life. In one singular human body, all the zoe-life of the Father was manifested to us. The Father had entered into His rest, and the Son had entered into the Father's works. Accordingly, it is the work of Jesus to give us His flesh as living bread which endures to eternal life.

With this in view, Jesus said, 'Do not work for food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you'. He also said, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent'. The work of Jesus is to give us living bread, and our work is to receive and believe the messengers that He sends to us. Our work is to participate in His work.

The bread of God is indeed the bread of our sonship. As we eat of it, our sonship is being made substantial. In the same way that we grow physically by eating and drinking in this life, our eternal sonship grows as we feed on the body and blood of Jesus. By eating and drinking of His life, we grow up 'into Him who is the Head'. The zoe-life of the Father in our inner man is growing in preparation for the day of resurrection and the new heavens and new earth. It is the work of God to prepare us for this purpose. Paul said, 'He who prepared us for this very purpose is God'.

### References:

2 Cor 5:5    Eph 4:15  
John 1:1, 4, 14  
John 6:27, 29

### Further Study

Eph 4

### Daily Psalm

Psalm 56

## Firstborn sons

When we consider the symbolic offerings of the Old Testament, we may think that the sin offering was foremost. Alternatively, we may consider that the burnt offering was the first, and indeed, it is for us. We must present our bodies as a living sacrifice. However, as we 'consider Jesus', He is firstly the 'bread from heaven', the firstfruits offering. Having emptied Himself to the Father's bosom, He became the Father's firstborn. The Father testified, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You'.

Jesus did not firstly come to redeem us from sin, although that work is fundamental in bringing forth sonship. Without Christ, we are dead in trespasses and sins. For an offender incarcerated in a prison, their release is essential to their restoration. However, their restoration is the foremost consideration, otherwise they may offend again and the latter state becomes worse than the first. Jesus came to give us life and the incorruptible inheritance of a firstborn son of the Father.

We recall the words of the psalmist, 'I also shall make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth'. Jesus is the firstborn Son and the heir of all things. However, we are all begotten as firstborn sons 'in Him'. It is not as if there are multitudes of second and third generation sons of the Father. There is only one generation of firstborn sons and they are all in Christ. All our names are in Him and He has brought our sonship from the dead to the Father's right hand. This is why we are called 'the church of the firstborn'. We are heirs of the Father and joint-heirs with Christ.

### References:

Heb 5:5      2 Pet 2:20  
Psa 2:7      Psa 89:27  
Matt 12:45    Heb 12:23  
Rom 8:17

### Further Study

Rom 8:5-17

### Daily Psalm

Psalm 57