

1. Last week I completed a study of Joh 6:1-58 by way of the *Doctrine of Witnessing, Walking on Water, Bread of Heaven* and the *Woman of Samaria*. When the clock tolled 7:45 we were about to begin an analysis of Joh 6:57-61.

**Joh 6:57 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.**

**Joh 6:58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."**

**Joh 6:59 He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.**

**Joh 6:60 On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?"**

**Joh 6:61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you?"**

2. I think the best way to teach these verses is to review the *Doctrine of Manna*.

1. Manna is used in Scripture both figuratively and literally.

1.1 The more important Old Testament Scriptures relating to Manna are Exo 16:14-35; Num 11:1-9 and Jos 5:12. I shall quote in part:

Exo 16:14 When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor.

Exo 16:15 When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat ...

Exo 16:22 On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much ... and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses.

Exo 16:23 He said to them ... "Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So, bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning ...

Exo 16:26 Six days you are to gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will not be any."

Exo 16:27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

Exo 16:28 Then the LORD said to Moses, "How long will you refuse to keep my commands and my instructions? ...

Exo 16:33 So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come."

Exo 16:34 As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony, that it might be kept.

Exo 16:35 The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan.

Num 11:1 Now the people complained about their hardships ...

Num 11:4 ..."If only we had meat to eat!

Num 11:5 We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost--also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic.

Jos 5:12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

2. Manna was used as a teaching aid in the tabernacle and the temples.

Heb 9:1 Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary.

Heb 9:2 A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampstand, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the Holy Place.

Heb 9:3 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place,

Heb 9:4 which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This **ark contained the gold jar of manna**, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

3. Let's now see how manna is used analogously in Scripture.

3.1 Manna was used to teach the importance of taking in the Word of God. Due 8:3 compared with Mat 4:4.

Mat 4:4 But Jesus answered and said, It is written in Deu 8:3, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Deu 8:3 And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

3.2 Doctrine is only provided in amounts commensurate with positive volition. First you have to want to hear and then the manna comes; the same with Bible doctrine.

3.2.1 As in Christ's kingdom platform "when you hunger and thirst after righteousness you shall be filled."

Mat 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Exo 16:18 And when they measured it by the omer, he who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little. Each one gathered as much as he needed.

3.3 Doctrine also is a grace gift from God and it can either be a source of blessing or cursing.

3.4 The Jews of the Exodus generation grumbled at having to eat manna and so God withheld it and made them eat quail until "it came out of their nostrils."

3.4.1 Thus, people in every age who reject doctrine (the heavenly manna) are subject to discipline. The same is true today.

3.4.2 God will allow people to use their own volition to swallow the lies of the "many scoffers who abound in the last days."

Num 11:18 "Tell the people: 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow, when you will eat meat. The LORD heard you when you wailed, "If only we had meat to eat! We were better off in Egypt!" Now the LORD will give you meat, and you will eat it.

Num 11:19 You will not eat it for just one day, or two days, or five, ten or twenty days,

Num 11:20 but for a whole month -- until it comes out of your nostrils and you loathe it--because you have rejected the LORD, who is among you, and have wailed before him, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

3.5 When the Jews did not follow God's protocol bad things happened. The same was true in the Kingdom Age and today. Rejecting the bread of heaven results in consequences.

Exo 16:19 Then Moses said to them, "No one is to keep any of it until morning."

Exo 16:20 However, some of them paid no attention to Moses; they kept part of it until morning, but it was full of maggots and began to smell. So Moses was angry with them ...

Exo 16:27 Nevertheless, some of the people went out on the seventh day to gather it, but they found none.

Mat 8:10 When Jesus saw the faith of the Centurion, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

Mat 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Mat 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city.

Rom 9:30 What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith;

Rom 9:31 but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.

Rom 9:32 Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "stumbling stone."

Rom 9:33 As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

4. Manna was designed to sustain the Israelites physically during their trek to the Promised Land. When they got into the land however the manna and meat as a direct gift ceased; once in the land they were expected to work for their food.

Jos 5:12 The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate of the produce of Canaan.

5. Manna was used to test Israel. So also, today, the protocol plan for acquiring doctrine is a test for the believer.

Deu 8:16 He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you.

Exo 16:4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or not.

5.1 There are negative believers in every age; to some of the Exodus generation the manna was bitter and to others it tasted like honey.

5.1.1 So also today the Word of God is appreciated by some and for others in varying degrees the Word is unappreciated and even hated.

Num 11:6 But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes ...

Num 11:10 Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased.

Num 11:11 And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favor in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me?

5.1.2 As manna was taken for granted so also is the Word of God. In Psalm seventy-eight Israel's rejection of manna is used in part to describe Israel's "reversionism."

Psa 78:12 He did miracles in the sight of their fathers in the land of Egypt, in the region of Zoan.

Psa 78:13 He divided the sea and led them through; he made the water stand firm like a wall.

Psa 78:14 He guided them with the cloud by day and with light from the fire all night.

Psa 78:15 He split the rocks in the desert and gave them water as abundant as the seas;

Psa 78:16 he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

Psa 78:17 But they continued to sin against him, rebelling in the desert against the Most High.

Psa 78:18 They willfully put God to the test by demanding the food they craved.

Psa 78:19 They spoke against God, saying, "Can God spread a table in the desert?"

Psa 78:20 When he struck the rock, water gushed out, and streams flowed abundantly. But can he also give us food? Can he supply meat for his people?"

Psa 78:21 When the LORD heard them, he was very angry; his fire broke out against Jacob, and his wrath rose against Israel,

Psa 78:22 for they did not believe in God or trust in his deliverance.

Psa 78:23 Yet he gave a command to the skies above and opened the doors of the heavens;

Psa 78:24 he rained down manna for the people to eat, he gave them the grain of heaven.

Psa 78:25 Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the food they could eat.

Psa 78:26 He let loose the east wind from the heavens and led forth the south wind by his power.

Psa 78:27 He rained meat down on them like dust, flying birds like sand on the seashore.

Psa 78:28 He made them come down inside their camp, all around their tents.

Psa 78:29 They ate till they had more than enough, for he had given them what they craved.

Psa 78:30 But before they turned from the food they craved, even while it was still in their mouths,

Psa 78:31 God's anger rose against them; he put to death the sturdiest among them, cutting down the young men of Israel.

6. The Word of God today is manna from heaven.

7. Like the Jews of the Exodus subsequent generations have rejected God's heavenly food and suffered for their errors.

Pro 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayers shall be an abomination.

Pro 12:1 Whoever loveth instruction loveth knowledge: and he that hateth reproof is brutish.

7.1 The attitude of a believer toward Bible doctrine determines whether he will receive blessing or discipline in time.

Pro 8:33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

Pro 8:34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the post of my doors.

Pro 8:35 For whoever findeth doctrine, findeth life and shall obtain favor of the Lord.

Pro 8:36 But he that sinneth against doctrine wrongeth his own soul: and all they that hate me love operational death in time.

8. Jos 1:8 says daily study of the Word of God will make the believer a unique success.

Jos 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then you shall make thy way prosperous, and then you shall have a good success.

9. Manna was stored says the writer of Hebrews to remind Israel of its coming blessing when the Lord returns.

Heb 9:1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.

Heb 9:2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

Heb 9:3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

Heb 9:4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid roundabout with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;

Heb 9:5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

Heb 9:6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God ...

Heb 9:11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;

Heb 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Heb 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:

Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Heb 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance ...

Heb 9:23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.



Heb 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Heb 9:25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

Heb 9:26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

10. Complaining about manna brought severe discipline from God.

Num 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

Num 21:6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

10.1 So also today there is a judgment for negative believers who reject the protocol of God.

Rev 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Rev 3:15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

2Pe 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

2Pe 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2Pe 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

2Pe 2:7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked.

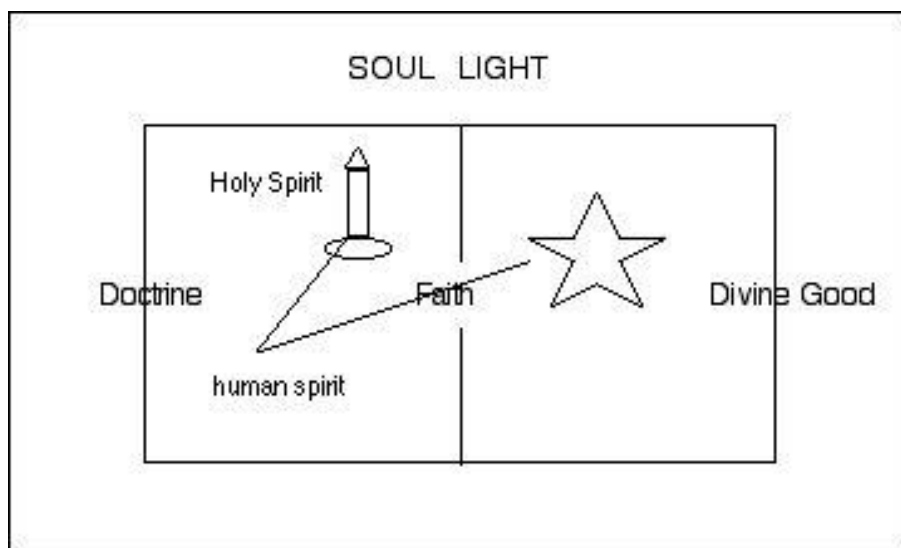
2Pe 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment for punishment.

11. Manna not daily collected vanished, just as doctrine left on the printed page cannot be used under the heat of adversity; it must be in the soul before the enemy attacks.

11.1 Doctrine must be in the soul if it is to be of value in following the colors to the high ground.

Joh 6:58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: **he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.**



12. Let's leave manna for now and move to a study of Joh 6:62-65.

Joh 6:62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!

Joh 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

Joh 6:64 Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.

Joh 6:65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

12.1 I think the best way to teach Joh 6:62-65 is to review the *Doctrine of Ascension*.

### ***Doctrine of the Ascension and Seating of Christ***

#### 1. Definition and Concept

1.1 The bodily transfer of our Lord from the earthly to the heavenly sphere of existence.

1.1.1 The ascension is then that doctrine of Christology pertaining to the glorification of Jesus in hypostatic union being seated at the right of the Father in the place of honor.

1.1.2 Both the Ascension and seating of our Lord were accomplished in resurrection body.

1.1.3 This Ascension of our Lord forms the climax of Jesus' strategic victory in the angelic conflict.

1.2 The primary account of the Ascension appears in Acts 1:9-11 and Luk 24:51:

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 1:10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Luk 24:51 "And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them and carried up into heaven."

1.3 The tertiary reference in Mar 16:19 is rendered questionable by inferior textual evidence. Mar 16:9-20 not in the better manuscripts.

1.3.1 However, the Ascension is assumed as the foundation for numerous statements in the New Testament.

Col 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Rom 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Heb 8:1 The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven,

1.4 In fact, there is hardly a New Testament writer who does not give testimony, direct or indirect, to the truth of the ascension.

2. According to Luke, the event took place approximately 40 days after the resurrection.

Acts 1:3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

3. Luke also tells us it took place near Bethany on the Mount of Olives disappearing into a cloud.

Luk 24:50 When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.

Luk 24:51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.

Acts 1:12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city.

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

3.1 Whether the cloud was that of the Shekinah glory or a natural cloud of vapor, the record does not make clear.

4. The Ascension was anticipated in the Old Testament.

Psa 68:18 When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train; you received gifts for men, even for the rebellious--that you, O LORD God, might dwell there.

4.1 Eph 4:8 is a related verse.

Eph 4:8 This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

Psa 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

5. The Ascension was prophesied by our Lord.

Joh 6:58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever..."

Joh 6:61 Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you?"

Joh 6:62 What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!

Joh 20:17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

6. Objection has been raised concerning the Ascension by those who approach the record from a purely naturalistic viewpoint.

6.1 They assert that such violation of the law of gravity is unthinkable.

6.2 However, for those who accept the possibility of supernatural intervention in the world, the Ascension is not a problem.

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