

**JOHN 6:30-40**  
**THE BREAD OF LIFE!**  
**PART 1**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 6 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

What we see taking place here in the verses we will be looking at this morning is born out of how this chapter opened up.

As this chapter opened, we saw that Jesus fed 5,000 men, plus women and children, maybe some 15,000 to 20,000 people, with just two small, pickled fish and five barely crackers.

And this crowd was not only fed, but they were stuffed! And there were even twelve baskets of leftovers that the disciples of Jesus took with them when they got on the boat to cross over the Sea of Galilee!

And in John 6:22-24 we are told, **“On the following day, when the people who were standing on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other boat there, except that one which His disciples had entered, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but His disciples had gone away alone - however, other boats came from Tiberias, near the place where they ate bread after the Lord had given thanks - when the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they also got into boats and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.”**

Now I don't believe all 15,000 to 20,000 people got into these boats, that would not be possible. Keep in mind that some of that crowd that was fed by Jesus went home, some got into these boats and others probably just walked around to the other side. But I believe there was a good number of them that sought Jesus out!

And we are told that Jesus and His men, as well as this crowd of people, are in the synagogue there in Capernaum where Jesus is teaching them. (John 6:59)

And Jesus confronts them and gets to the heart of the matter, the reason why they followed Jesus to Capernaum. They wanted to be fed again by Jesus. Think about how great this was.

They are hungry and they don't have to do anything, Jesus just feeds them and if He did like He did before, they would be stuffed once again.

But Jesus did not come to meet their physical needs, the more important issue is their spiritual needs. That was the point that Jesus made in John 6:27, **“Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.”**

That phrase, **“everlasting life”** or that point is mentioned some eight times in this discourse. (John 6:40, 47, 50, 51, 54, 57, 58 and 68)

So many today want Jesus to take care their physical needs without dealing with the spiritual, without dealing with the eternal.

And think about that for a minute. If Jesus were to feed you, clothe you, protect you and you were completely free from any problems in life, not saying He does not do that, but that is not the main issue, what good is that?

Now some may say that would be great. But think about this. If you had all that and yet, when you died you would spend eternity in the Lake of Fire, was it worth it?

Absolutely not and thus, the main reason for Jesus to come is to save us from our sins and give us everlasting life, eternal life with Him!

Eight times we see this idea of everlasting life spoken of, like I have said. And eight in the Bible is the number of “*new beginnings*” and that is interesting to me. You see, as we receive eternal life in Jesus, we are a “*new creation in Christ*” and that is the – ***ULTIMATE NEW BEGINNING!*** (II Corinthians 5:17)

I have called this study – ***THE BREAD OF LIFE!***

And the reason for that is simple. Jesus is going to point these people, and the Jewish religious leaders, to the fact that He is the bread of life and apart from Him, you will die in your sins!

You see, perspective is everything. Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

Thinking of the fullness and duration of this wonderful life, W. B. Hinson, a great preacher of a past generation, spoke from his own experience just before he died.

He said, “I remember a year ago when a doctor told me, ‘You have an illness from which you won’t recover.’

I walked out to where I live 5 miles from Portland, Oregon, and I looked across at that mountain that I love. I looked at the river in which I rejoice, and I looked at the stately trees that are always God’s own poetry to my soul.

Then in the evening I looked up into the great sky where God was lighting His lamps, and I said, ‘I may not see you many more times, but Mountain, I shall be alive when you are gone; and River, I shall be alive when you cease running toward the sea; and Stars, I shall be alive when you have fallen from your sockets in the great down pulling of the material universe!’”

- W. B. Hinson

How true that is, and Jesus wants this crowd of people that followed Him, as well as these Jewish religious leaders to listen closely, to pay attention to what He has to say about this eternal life that is only found in Him. This is important, obviously! And He is speaking to us as well.

I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into four main points and they are as follows,

***SHOW US A SIGN – JOHN 6:30-31***

***ETERNAL LIFE – JOHN 6:32-33***

***CONFUSION – JOHN 6:34***

***I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE – JOHN 6:35-40***

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 6, beginning in verse 30 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word and we look at the topic of – ***THE BREAD OF LIFE!***

## **JOHN 6**

### **VERSES 30-31**

Now, if this is all you knew of this story, this question they asked Jesus, “... **‘What sign will You perform then, that we may see it and believe You? What work will you do?’**” we may miss what is really going on here. (John 6:30)

Think about that for a minute. What did Jesus do for them the day before? He fed them, this huge crowd of people, with just a little food and they were filled!

Not only that, but we are told in John 6:14, **“Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, ‘This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.’”**

Now, some twenty-four hours or so have passed by and they forgot what they saw and what they said they believed!

It is amazing how quickly we forget things and we are never satisfied with the evidence that is before us, we want just a little more like they did!

And their question is born out of what Jesus just said to them about eternal life, that you do not work for it, but you just have to believe in Him, in Jesus! (John 5:29)

Think of their question like this. *“Okay Jesus, we have heard what you have said, that you are the Messiah, but why should we believe that? If you want us to get on board with you then you need to do a miracle to prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that you are the Messiah. You know, the one that God spoke to Moses about, the Prophet He would send someday.”*

(Deuteronomy 18:18)

Again, no miracle is going to change their mind or sway them. It truly is a matter of the heart. But the basic idea here is that if Jesus would do this for them, they would believe or what would Jesus give to them if they did believe!

Keep in mind that they are focused on the manna that God gave to them, even though, as we will see by what Jesus says to them, they believed it was Moses who gave them this bread from heaven, but it wasn't Moses who did this!

So if Jesus could do something like that, like Moses did, that might convince them, or so they thought.

This is what the Rabbis taught. And this is why they were looking for the Messiah, this Prophet that Moses spoke of, to duplicate this miracle of the manna.

But didn't Jesus just feed them the day before with just a little food and He multiplied it, wasn't that enough?

I guess not. Jesus did not make bread fall down from heaven like Moses did, or so they thought. And Moses did that for some forty years. Jesus did just one meal!

Thus, if Jesus is God, and He is, then why didn't He just do some great miracle and blow them away?

First of all, faith does not come by miracles, faith comes by the hearing of the Word of God!

Secondly, Jesus is not going to buy our faith or bribe us to believe. It does not work like that!

Politicians will buy your votes, but Jesus is not a politician, He is Almighty God, and He does not need us, we need Him!

If we were bribed to believe what kind of faith is that? It is an empty faith, and you will need more and more and more compensation for believing. Again, that is not how it works!

The bottom line is this. Jesus is not here to entertain us. He is not some genie that we can summon and get what we want. He is Almighty God and the One we are to worship! We were created for His good pleasure, and He is not here for ours, even though as we serve the Lord we are tremendously blessed! (Revelation 4:11 KJV)

So with this crowd of people there continues to be some confusion and Jesus is going to correct that confusion.

You see, here we looked at – ***SHOW US A SIGN!***

And the response to that by Jesus is simple, He is going to speak to them about –

***ETERNAL LIFE!***

VERSES 32-33

Once again we see Jesus wanting them to pay close attention to what He is saying, that is the idea behind the phrase “**Most assuredly.**”

The reason this is so important is that they first needed to be corrected because what they believed about Moses was wrong.

And then, after Jesus is going to correct them, He is going to share with them about this eternal or everlasting life!

Now what did they get wrong?

They said Moses fed their fathers in the wilderness and Jesus correctly reminds them that it wasn't Moses who provided them the manna in the wilderness to eat, but God.

That was physical food to feed their bodily appetites during their wilderness wanderings.

Jesus then moves from the physical to the spiritual and He speaks of the true bread from heaven that God sent down, and that bread from heaven is Jesus!

Just as the physical bread was needed to grow and stay healthy and strong, so too do we need the bread of life, we need Jesus to grow and stay healthy and strong by!

We feed on the Word of God, and we have eternal life through Jesus!

What people tend to focus on today is their physical needs instead of the spiritual needs that they have.

They will go here and there and everywhere to try to satisfy that hunger that is in them, but that hunger will never be satisfied apart from the bread of life, Jesus Christ!

Now let's look at this manna and see how it is a picture of Christ for us.

In Exodus chapter 16 the children of Israel are complaining to Moses and Aaron because they have no food, they are hungry and why in the world did Moses and Aaron bring them out of Egypt to die in the wilderness!

And we are told in Exodus 16:4-5, **“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily.’”**

So the children of Israel were instructed to gather enough food for one day and each day they would do this, and then, before the Sabbath they would gather a two day supply for no manna would be provided on the Sabbath day.

Not only that, but all that they gathered they were to eat, and they were not to leave any until the next morning.

Now, for those who did not listen, there were consequences.

In Exodus 16:20 we are told, **“Notwithstanding they did not heed Moses. But some of them left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them.”**

As we have seen here in John chapter 6, the true bread from heaven is Jesus and we too must partake of Him daily.

Others can't do it for us. We must partake of God's Word each and every day. We need to feed upon Jesus!

What do I mean by that?

As we read God's Word we are feeding upon Jesus and the reason I say that is because what we are told in John 1:1, "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**"

Thus, Jesus is the Word and as we feed on the Word of God we are, in a sense, partaking of Jesus.

Now you can't say, "*Hey, I am going to read for a few hours today and that should cover me for a week or so!*"

That is not how it works, not at all!

Can you imagine if you went up to your wife and said, "*Hey honey, let's talk for a few hours today and then just leave me alone for the next week or so!*"

How do you think that would go?

Not too well and you may get your wish as you are sleeping on the sofa!

We need to take that time daily with the Lord because seven days outside of the Word of God makes one **WEAK!**

People want to know about God, then read His Word, apply it to your life. I see that as one of those tragedies in some Christians lives. They know the Word of God, they can quote the Word of God, but when it comes time to applying it to their lives, they have no idea what to do.

It is simple, **OBEY!**

As the Lord told Joshua, "**This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**" Joshua 1:8-9.

May we take in God's Word and apply it to our lives as we walk in faith!

And just like this manna that came down from heaven, God sent His Son, He sent Jesus down from heaven to give to us eternal life through His death and resurrection!

Remember what Jesus said in John 3:16-17, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

Manna was a free gift of God to the children of Israel; it was not something that they earned by their good behavior!

Jesus is a free gift to us, He has the gift of eternal life for us, not because we deserve it or are so good!

Interestingly enough, manna was white in color and the taste of the manna was sweet!

I think that is a picture of the righteousness of Christ, it is white, pure, there is no darkness in Him at all. And when we taste and see that the Lord is good, there is a sweetness to our lives that He gives to us!

One writer summed it up like this for us. He wrote, *“The Lord Jesus revealed Himself as the Bread of God which came down from heaven and gives life. He was showing the superiority of the Bread of God to the manna in the wilderness. The manna did not impart life but only sustained physical life. It was not intended for the whole world but only for Israel. The True Bread comes down from heaven and gives life to men - not just to one nation but to all the world!”*

Yes, that gift is to all, but not all receive it, not all accept it, and they end up mocking it. Keep in mind that when the Jews left Egypt there were a mixed multitude of people with them, those that just tagged along. And they were a problem for Israel.

We obviously see this in the world where they come against Jesus and the Word of God.

But we also see this in the church where some leaders and some in the church have put down who Jesus is and have altered what God's Word has to say.

What they end up holding onto is the ideas, the philosophies of the world and instead of the church being a light, it has become darkness many times! We are just like the world!

Mocking Christianity is the latest American sport. Everywhere one looks there are articles espousing the evils of faith, laughing at the irrationality of belief, and belittling Christian thought.

Remember what Paul wrote in Colossians 2:8-10, "**Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.**"

Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts this verse, **“See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men’s ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah). For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].”**

That is why we need to draw close to the bread of life, to Jesus, to be in His Word, so we will not get pulled away from the things of God and into the deceitfulness of the world’s philosophies!

And we need to understand that the world will mock us and make fun of us, not might!

One writer put it like this,

In light of all the events that have taken place since the global outbreak of the coronavirus, we have heard the world ask the church “Where is your God?”

Of course this is not new, throughout history, we have seen that mockers don’t limit their disdain to God alone, but extend it to His people as well, once the unexpected happens.

In Psalm 42:3-10, David said, “My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, “Where is your God?”

In the Old Testament, we see that prophet Jeremiah became “the laughingstock of all peoples” and was “the object of their taunts all day long” (Lamentations 3:14).

The good news is this, God vindicated him.

I want to remind you today that we serve a God of the impossible. There is nothing that He cannot do. . . .

. . . Nothing takes our God by surprise, that should give us great confidence. ***To gain peace, we must go deeper in Him. Regardless of what the mockers say, stand firm in faith, and trust the word of God. . . .***

We should not be shocked when non-Christians mock our faith. Jesus was mocked when He was crucified, and He told us that people would hate us because we follow Him. . . . I don't live for the world's approval, and it's crazy to expect people who have not had a personal encounter with Christ to respect my faith or applaud my morality.

Second Peter 3:3 says in the last days, "mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts."

A common characteristic of this fallen world is mockery.

Unbelievers sometimes mock God, take His name in vain, attack the Bible, make fun of churches and ridicule anyone who follows Jesus.

Persecution should never come as a surprise to you. Don't be shocked when it happens!

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And as much as we see this going on in the world, like I have said, there are churches and Christians that mock those who love Jesus and the Bible. They think we are fanatics about Jesus and the Bible.

I guess I would agree. I am a fanatic about Jesus and the Bible. Why can't I love Jesus and His Word that much?

The world can love a sporting team and they can be fanatics about it. But when we are all about Jesus and His Word, they feel that is going overboard.

Let me say this. If they feel it is more important to worship a football team or whatever they want to worship, if that is more important than worshiping the creator of heaven and earth, that is their problem, not mine. I pray that they would come to the bread of life and partake of Him, entering into that eternal life with Him. But that is a choice they have to make.

The bottom line is this. No matter what they think of me it is not going to stop me from taking into my life Jesus by taking into my life the Word of God!

You see, God's Word is bread from heaven, and it alone can feed our soul and produce health, strength and growth for our spiritual lives.

And listen to what Peter said in I Peter 1:23-25, "**having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because 'All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the word of the Lord endures forever.'** **Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.**"

We have been born again by taking the Word of God into our lives, by believing what the Scriptures are saying of Jesus. And for those who mock us, mock the Lord, God's Word will endure forever, and they won't, at least not eternally with the Lord.

When all that is of the earth is destroyed, the Word of God will live and abide forever.

So Jesus has just spoken to them about the true bread from heaven, the – ***ETERNAL LIFE*** that He has for them, and notice their response – ***CONFUSION!***

VERSE 34

Think about what Jesus has shown them so far.

First, in response to their question, “... **‘What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?’**” John 6:28.

In other words, they were asking Jesus what work they needed to do to get into heaven. Understand that the Jewish Law was firmly established in their lives, and they wanted to know how much they needed to do, what Laws did they need to keep, how good did they have to be to get into heaven!

And Jesus responded by saying, “... **‘This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.’**” John 6:29.

In other words, like I have said, you can’t work your way into heaven, you must believe in Jesus, the Savior, the One that the Father sent to save us from our sins!

But they did not get that, and they wanted a sign and Jesus gives to them this sign from heaven, that He is the bread of life. Not like the bread that was provided in the wilderness for them, not physical bread, but spiritual bread that gives us life, eternal life!

And the second point is seen as Jesus finished speaking with them, their response is, “... **‘Lord, give us this bread always.’**” John 6:34.

Are you kidding me?

They are still missing the point that Jesus was making. They wanted the material *bread* Jesus miraculously provided the day before and they wanted it *always*. They are still thinking on the physical level and Jesus is speaking to them on a spiritual level.

This is not genuine faith. Not at all!

And I find this interesting because this is the trend for the church today, meeting the superficial needs of the people.

I remember when Willow Creek was started. They went around the neighborhood asking the people what they wanted in the church. They came back together and put together a church that was to meet the needs, or I should say, the superficial needs of the people.

That is why they call it Seeker Friendly because doctrine that may make people uncomfortable is negated, it is not spoken of and thus, you give people what they want!

Now some may not see that as a problem. Some may think that this is a good thing, that you give people what they want. But it is not.

When I was a kid I loved candy, sugar, ice cream and if I could, I would eat it all the time! But my mom was smarter than that and she did not give me what I wanted, she gave to me what I needed and that was a well-balanced meal to keep me healthy, to keep me strong.

We are not seeing that done in churches today, as I have said.

Remember what Paul wrote in II Timothy 4:2-5, **“Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”**

You see, I don’t have to go around the neighborhood to see what people want in a church. God has already told me the focus of the church and that is to – ***PREACH THE WORD!***

Is it easy? No, and you have to be ready to teach and preach the Word of God. Do it when people want to hear it and when they don’t want to hear it!

You are to convince them that the Scriptures are true.

You are to rebuke them as you teach the Word of God and expose their sin, God will convict them as the Word of God is spoken.

You are to exhort them to continue on in the faith, not to give up, but to forge ahead.

Again, prior to Paul telling Timothy these words to encourage him, he wrote, “**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**” II Timothy 3:16-17.

The Bible is God’s Word to us, breathed from the mouth of God to us and God’s Word is profitable to us. It tells us what is right. It tells us what is wrong. It tells us how to get right when we have gone astray. And it tells us how to stay right!

The end result of preaching and teaching the Word of God is that the man of God may be complete, he will be ready, thoroughly equipped for *EVERY* good work!

But the problem comes when people don’t want to hear it any longer and they search for teachers who will tickle their ears, tell them fairy tales and they end up ignoring the truths of God found in the Word of God.

But don’t let that stop you Timothy is what Paul is saying and that should encourage us as well.

And I like this. You see, Jesus did not give up on them. Even with all this confusion on their part, He is going to keep teaching them as we will see in a few minutes.

But there are those who close their ears to God’s Word. They close their heart to the Holy Spirit’s leading. They just don’t want to hear it anymore or at all!

And here is the problem for the unsaved as God's Word is spoken. Paul makes this point for us in I Corinthians 2:14, "**But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**"

You see, they need to be born again so that their spirit can be in tune with the Spirit of God. That means you speak forth the Word of God because faith comes by hearing, as Paul wrote, and hearing by the Word of God! (Romans 10:17)

I like what Bruce wrote regarding what they wanted and what Jesus did about it. He wrote, "***What they wanted, he would not give; what he offered, they would not receive.***"

And isn't that the crux of it all! People want God to give them this and that, but they reject what God has for them, which is far more important than anything physical. Like I have said – ***ETERNAL LIFE!***

And we need to be careful here because just as Jesus tried to lift their understanding above their material, physical needs, so we need to have our minds lifted, we need to focus upon Jesus!

We tend to think we will find fulfillment and happiness in material things, in possessions, in physical pleasures. If that were true, why are so many still searching, and they never seem to find what they are looking for?

Because true fulfillment, true happiness is not found in material things, possessions, physical pleasures, but in the Lord!

Again, the best example of seeing how unfulfilling these worldly things are, all we have to do is look at the life of Solomon. He had it all, more than anyone and yet, he saw it all as empty, vain, it never brought him the satisfaction that he was looking for.

Do you know why?

Because he was looking *UNDER THE SON* instead of looking *TO THE SON!*

He was not focused on the things of God and yes, God had given him great wisdom but if you don't apply that to your life, then you will end up empty!

And if you are still doubting that all these physical things can't bring you happiness, don't listen to me, listen to what Jesus says. In Luke 12:15 Jesus said, **“... ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’”**

Then what is the answer?

That is what we will be looking at next as we look at – *I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE!*

#### VERSES 35-40

Here in John 6:35 we see the first of the seven *“I AM”* statements that Jesus made in John's Gospel that again point to the deity of Jesus.

This is the name of God that was given back in Exodus 3:13-14, where we are told, **“Then Moses said to God, ‘Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?’ And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”**

Keep in mind that Moses, at this point was living out in the desert, he was a nobody. And now the Lord is calling him, and he is worried that the Jewish people will not listen to what he has to say. Thus, he wants to know who should he say has sent him?

And the Lord tells him, “**I AM**” or the eternal One, the all-becoming One has sent him!

The Hebrew consonants **YHWH** are how it is written because they did not insert the vowels and thus, the speculation on how it is pronounced.

Some say it is *Yahweh*, which I believe is correct and others say *Jehovah*, we are not really sure.

This combination of consonants, **YHWH** is known as **TETRAGRAMMATON** or “*four letters.*”

In the Old Testament we see many names of God, the same God but just how He meets us where we are - The all-becoming One!

Here are a few names of God in the Old Testament:

**YAHWEH JIREH**: The Lord will provide – Genesis 22:14.

**YAHWEH ROPHE**: The Lord who hears – Exodus 15:22-26.

**YAHWEH NISSI**: The Lord our banner – Exodus 17:15.

**YAHWEH M'KADDESH**: The Lord who sanctifies – Leviticus 20:8.

**YAHWEH SHALOM**: The Lord our peace – Judges 6:24.

**YAHWEH ELOHIM**: Lord God – Genesis 2:4.

**YAHWEH TSIDKENU**: The Lord our righteousness – Jeremiah 23:5-6.

**YAHWEH ROHI**: The Lord our shepherd – Psalm 23.

**YAHWEH SHAMMAH**: The Lord is there – Ezekiel 48:35.

**YAHWEH SABAOTH**: The Lord of hosts – Isaiah 1:24.

Now, in saying that I think we are all in agreement that not only in Exodus chapter 3 is this speaking of Almighty God, but in these other Old Testament verses as well.

So, as we come to the Gospel of John, and we see this same “**I AM**” statement, we also see that Jesus attributes that to Himself. Again, showing that He is Almighty God!

As I have said, here in John, His Gospel is built around these seven “**I AM**” statements and we will be covering them over the next several weeks. But look at these statements that Jesus made, and you will see how clear His teaching is regarding His deity, that He is Almighty God!

***I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE*** – John 6:35.

***I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD*** – John 9:5.

***I AM THE DOOR*** – John 10:9.

***I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD*** – John 10:11.

***I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE*** – John 11:25.

***I AM THE WAY, I AM THE TRUTH, I AM THE LIFE*** – John 14:6.

***I AM THE VINE*** – John 15:11.

And we will also see that Jesus uses this phrase, “**I AM**” or EGO AMI in the Greek in John 8:58, where we are told, – ***BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM!***

Thus, Jesus is our all-becoming One, that no matter what we are going through He will meet us where we are.

I believe the Lord was telling Moses this very thing – “Moses, don’t worry, ***I AM*** with you, and you have nothing to fear!”

May we too remember that and apply it to our lives – He is the great “***I AM***” not the great “***I WAS***” or the great “***I WILL BE***”!

And the reason John listed all these and for writing this Gospel, **“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”** John 20:30-31.

And notice how Jesus starts out here in John 6:35, **“... ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”**

Our *Great I AM*, Jesus Christ is the *SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE* for all who believe and receive Him into their lives!

You see, if you come to Jesus, partake of Him, you will **“never”** hunger or thirst again and in the Greek, it is emphatic, you will always be filled, your thirst will always be met in Him!

Now some may argue that many Christians have no food, they are hungry, they do not have clean water, so what is Jesus talking about here?

He is speaking of spiritual things and remember the crowd that followed Him were thinking on the physical level. He wants them and us to see this in a spiritual sense.

Our hunger for God is met in Jesus!

Our thirst for the things of God is met in Jesus!

The becoming One has become the bread of life for our spirits to partake of.

And this is an invitation to come and partake of Him. Morris put it like this, ***“This verse should not be regarded as an abstract statement. It constitutes an appeal. Since Jesus is the bread of life men are invited to come to Him, and to believe on Him.”***

And yet we make it so complicated, and it is not. The work was completed by Jesus, and we have the choice to receive that free gift of life that is only found in Him by repenting of our sins and asking Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives!

Spurgeon put it like this, *“Faith in Christ is simply and truly described as coming to him. It is not an acrobatic feat; it is simply a coming to Christ. It is not an exercise of profound mental faculties; it is coming to Christ. A child comes to his mother, a blind man comes to his home, even an animal comes to his master. Coming is a very simple action indeed; it seems to have only two things about it, one is, to come away from something, and the other is, to come to something.”*

But, no matter what, there are always those – *SKEPTICS OF ETERNAL LIFE*. Listen again to what is said in John 6:36, **“But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe.”**

It truly is a matter of the heart. You don’t have to believe but you have seen and in spite of all the evidence, you choose to reject the invitation of eternal life that is only found in Jesus!

And this section we have been looking at concludes in a beautiful way – *THE SECURITY OF ETERNAL LIFE!*

Listen once again to what we are told here in John 6:37-40 and then I will expound on it. We are told, **“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”**

Jesus tells us that all who come to Him, He is not going to lose any of us! I am thankful for that, because I lose a lot of things. But if we are His, we will never be lost again!

I know that many struggle with this idea of losing your salvation, that you can just walk away from it, but if you look at what the Scriptures tell us, our salvation is based upon what the Lord has done and not our good works or behavior.

Paul said in Philippians 1:6, **“being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”**

Let me ask you a few questions here.

Who has begun a good work in you?

Of course, it is Jesus Christ and Paul is very confident about all of this!

Who will complete this good work that was begun in us?

It is the same One who has begun the good work in us, and that is Jesus.

It does not say that we will complete what God has started in us, not at all.

And think about this for a minute. If God began a good work in us, and then we walked away or did not add up to some kind of standard that we have set, then the work in us is not finished and what Paul said is wrong!

No, Paul is not wrong, but if we are interpreting this in a way that we have to acquire heaven by living up to a certain standard and we don't that we can lose our salvation, we are missing the point and we are wrong!

And yes, there are those who look and act like Christians and then, all of a sudden, they walked away, they deny the faith. Hear me out on this. They were not saved in the first place!

John put it like this in I John 2:19, **“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”**

And for those who are serving the Lord but have no relationship with Him, it is a works-based relationship, Jesus will tell them, ***“I never knew you!”*** (Matthew 7:21-23)

But for those who believe, we have that assurance and that confidence that He will lose none who come to Him, He is the Great Shepherd!

But again, there are those who are being taught and believe that you have to hold onto Jesus really tight and if you don't, if you lose your grip, you lose your salvation! Not at all!

Think about Noah. Did God tell Noah to build an ark and put some pegs on the outside of the ark. Then, when the rain comes, just hold on tight with all your might, and if you can do it, then you will make it into the new life, you will be saved. But, if you can't hold on, then you will be eternally lost!

Not at all. Noah went into the ark, God closed the door, and that door we enter through is Jesus and we are secure in Him!

Also, listen to what Jesus said in John 10:27-30, **“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one.”**

Who is holding on to us?

God the Father and Jesus, we are in their hands! I like that, we are secure in Him not because we are holding on, but because He is holding on tightly to us and He will not let go and He will not lose us!

And these verses here in John chapter 10 are important. After Jesus said that **“I give them eternal life”** He also said, **“and they shall never perish.”**

Even in the English that is pretty strong, but in the Greek, it is written in the middle voice, and it says this, ***“and they shall never do anything to cause themselves to perish.”***

Thank you, Lord! Again, our faithfulness to hold onto Him isn't the issue! The issue is His faithfulness to hold onto us!

Eternal life is given the moment a person receives Jesus, and Jesus is saying to us that the moment we come to saving faith - ***“You will never perish!”***

Let me ask you this in knowing all we know about God and what He is doing in our lives.

Do you hunger for God?

Listen to this example of people who are hungry. We are told,

“Get me in as fast as you can,” demanded the frantic woman at the blood lab, “I am fasting, and I don't want to sit around here all day and starve to death.”

As I watched the receptionist it seemed she was using all her will power to keep from rolling her eyes at the woman. Maybe I imagined it. Sometimes when I am hungry, I think I have super powers and can read people's thoughts and intentions.

Meanwhile, the receptionist actually responded by saying, “Of course, ma'am, we will be with you as soon as we can.”

As this whole scene played out before me, I remembered that almost every person who visited the lab at this time of the morning had missed breakfast.

But, the moaning woman pouting in her chair was clueless. She complained to anyone who would listen, completely unaware of how pervasive the hunger was in the room.

- <https://bit.ly/3xdKqG7>

For the unsaved, as they hunger for God, God will fill them with that everlasting life that is only found in Him.

For us as believers, we need to hunger and thirst for God, to know Him more and more and be guided by Him. Yes, we are satisfied in Him, but we desire all that God has for us.

I have been married for some forty-two years now and I am still learning more about my wife. Do I have to? No, but I want to know her more and more and that is how we should feel about God!

Think about it. We have such a hunger for bodily needs, may we have a more rich and deep hunger for the things of God!

***JESUS CHRIST IS THE BREAD OF LIFE*** – and He has given to us eternal life with Him. He has us in His hand and no one can snatch us out of His hand or God the Father's hand, we are safe, we are secure in them!

Thus, believing that your salvation is eternal will destroy the power of the devil's condemnation and sets you free to love God with the knowledge He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Or as John put it - “[God’s] perfect love [in Christ] casts out fear [of eternal judgment in hell]!” (1John 4:18)

And I will close with these words from Jesus to us – ***I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE!***