

THE GREAT “I AM”

#1 I AM the Bread of Life

Introduction: Mohammad Ali – “I am the greatest”

- John wrote his gospel with a purpose

John 20:31 *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*

- 7 miracles
- 7 “I AM”
- YHWH = Hebrew for “I am”
 - Moses and burning bush
- John 6 – discourse following feeding 5000
 - Background
- Jesus describes Himself 4 times in this as:
 - I am the bread of life`x 2
 - I am the bread from heaven
 - I am the living bread

1. I Am the Bread of Life

- Have you ever felt overwhelmed?
 - Disciples faced a crowd with no resources
- Philip’s reaction:

John 6:5-7 *When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Eight months’ wages would not buy enough for each one to have a bite!”*

- Philip overwhelmed

- Andrew saw an opportunity

John 6:8-9 *Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two fish, but how far will they go among so many?"*

- Andrew found something that was available.
 - Andrew had moved on from being a disciple of John the Baptist.
- People's reaction:
 - Jesus saw through the people's motives for being there

John 6:26 *Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs, but because you ate the loaves and had your fill."*

- What is your focus?
 - Temporal "quick fix"
 - Bigger picture

ILLUSTRATION: Sign Post



- Miracles are signs pointing to something / someone special
 - Remember 10 lepers
 - all received a miracle, but only one knew who it was pointing to... 9 missed the sign.

2. I Am the Bread from Heaven

- Jesus used the word "believe" FIVE times in John 6:25-59
- Believe = to be convinced by something.
 - Trust

John 6:36 *"But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe."*

- I told you...
 - You've seen Me
 - Still will not believe
- They were convinced enough to follow Him but did not believe enough to trust Him
 - Who is MY security?

John 6: 31-32 Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven."

- It wasn't Moses who gave the manna
 - 40 years of quail at night and manna in the morning
- Can we trust God for just enough, of more than enough?

ILLUSTRATION:

Allied soldiers in occupied land found many children fending for themselves. Many of them were malnourished and in need of medical care. The soldiers shared their bread with them.

However, the soldiers noticed the children were afraid to go to sleep at night. So one of the soldiers tried an experiment after dinner – he gave the children a piece of bread to hold. The result was astounding. When they had the security of bread for tomorrow, they slept like babies. It took away fear.

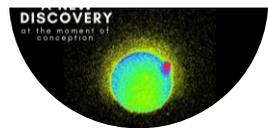
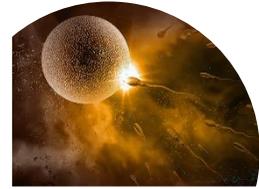
Bread! There is a surplus of meaning in this word. The word evokes strong emotions like security fellowship, the presence of God, provisions for the journey. Bread is deemed holy by peoples everywhere, and the root word for bread in most languages can be translated "food", as it is in the Bible.

3. I Am the Living Bread

- Living bread – not old and mouldy bread

ILLUSTRATION:

An amazing scientific discover was made in April 2016 in Northwestern University USA. They witnessed an amazing phenomenon: a male sperm meeting a female egg at human conception. What they saw was a flash of light being emitted as they met! Researchers have actual captured these mini-fireworks on film.



- Being born of the Spirit:
 - God is my Father (I belong)
 - Jesus as Living Bread (ongoing and sustaining)
 - Holy Spirit that penetrates our being,
 - making the Father and the Son real
 - invigorates us with eternal life
- Jesus is the Living Bread, our Sustainer.