

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and bright, golden light rays emanate from the pages, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The background is dark, making the light from the book stand out. The text 'BOOK of JOHN' is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font. The word 'BOOK' is in a bold, blocky font, 'of' is in a smaller, elegant script font, and 'JOHN' is in the same bold, blocky font as 'BOOK'.

BOOK *of* JOHN

THE REAL BREAD

JOHN 6:22-71

Last week, the storm was the examination on the feeding of the 5,000 . . . now the application!

- The whole point to the feeding of the multitude: Real Bread. Not just a full belly, but a full spirit.
- In *grace*, our Lord fed the hungry people bread; but in *truth*, He gave them the *Living Word*.



FOUR RESPONSES TO THE BREAD OF LIFE

- 1. Seeking the True Bread v. 22-40**
- 2. Complaining about the Real Bread v. 41-51**
- 3. Fighting over the Real Bread v. 52-59**
- 4. Departing from the Real Bread v. 60-71**

***Jesus was offering the real bread,
but very few wanted it!***

1. SEEKING THE TRUE BREAD v. 22-40

Bread as food only *sustains* life; but Jesus as the True Bread *gives* eternal life as a gift of faith. **Eph. 2:8-10**

- Jesus made it clear that only one “work” was necessary—to believe on the Savior by faith.
- Jesus clearly identified ***what this bread is***: He is the true Living Bread that came down from heaven.
- The listeners soon began to seek the ***“True Bread”*** that Jesus talked about.

THE "I AMs" OF JOHN'S GOSPEL

1. I Am the Bread of Life. **John 6:35**
2. I Am the Light of the World. **John 8:12**
3. I Am the Gate for the Sheep. **John 10:7-9**
4. I Am the Good Shepherd. **John 10:11-14**
5. I Am the Resurrection and the Life. **John 11:25**
6. I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. **John 14:6**
7. I Am the True Vine. **John 15:1-5**

2. COMPLAINING ABOUT THE REAL BREAD v. 41-51

Our Lord's statement, "*For I came down from heaven,*" (**John 6:38**) disturbed the religious leaders for they knew it was a claim of deity; religion hates relationship.

- When Jesus called Himself "*the Living Bread,*" He was not claiming to be exactly like the manna; He was claiming to be greater than the bread of Moses!

The manna only *sustained life* for the Jews, but Jesus *gives life* to the whole world.



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3. FIGHTING OVER THE REAL BREAD v. 52-59

This is not transubstantiation!

- Jesus surely had the Communion celebration in mind when He spoke these words; but not a literal body and blood.
- He made it clear that He was not speaking in literal terms (**John 6:63**), but figurative!
- Jesus made it plain that this eating and drinking were *absolutely essential* for eternal life—*spiritual life*.

4. DEPARTING FROM THE REAL BREAD v. 60-71

Jesus' teaching was not hard to understand, but hard to accept once you understood it.

- The Jewish religious leaders both misunderstood His words and rejected them.
- They were “*offended*” by what He taught. The Greek word is *Skandalizo*, “to make a scandal.”
- The result of this message was the loss of most of the Lord's new followers.

PETER GOT IT!

He knew that Jesus was speaking about *the Word* and not about literal flesh and blood.

- The preaching of the Word of God always leads to a sifting of the hearts of the listeners.
- God draws sinners to the Savior through the power of truth, His Word.
- Those who reject the Word also reject the Savior because the Real Bread is also the Living Word.

The Real Bread brings Real Life.