

John 6:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

Analysis

The crowd cites 'our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat' (Psalm 78:24), implicitly challenging Jesus to match Moses' provision. Their appeal to Scripture and ancestry reveals how we can use biblical truth to resist present revelation. They cite manna but miss its fulfillment standing before them.

Historical Context

Manna (Exodus 16) sustained Israel for 40 years in the wilderness. The crowd's reference connects Jesus' feeding miracle to that historical provision, but they fail to see Jesus as the greater Moses providing superior bread.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How can we use Scripture to resist rather than receive Christ's revelation?
2. What does this passage teach about the relationship between Old Testament types and their New Testament fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	πατέρες	ἡμῶν	τὸ	μάννα	φαγεῖν	ἐν	τῇ	ἐρήμῳ
G3588	fathers	Our	G3588	manna	did eat	in	G3588	the desert
	G3962	G2257		G3131	G5315	G1722		G2048
καθώς	ἐστὶν	γεγραμμένον	ἄρτον	ἐκ	τοῦ	οὐρανοῦ		
as	it is	written	bread	from	G3588	heaven		
G2531	G2076	G1125	G740	G1537		G3772		
ἔδωκεν	αὐτοῖς	φαγεῖν						
He gave	them	did eat						
G1325	G846	G5315						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 105:40 (Parallel theme): The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.

Nehemiah 9:15 (Parallel theme): And gavest them bread from heaven for their hunger, and broughtest forth water for them out of the rock for their thirst, and promisedst them that they should go in to possess the land which thou hadst sworn to give them.

John 6:49 (Parallel theme): Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

Revelation 2:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Exodus 16:35 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

1 Corinthians 10:3 (Parallel theme): And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

Nehemiah 9:20 (Parallel theme): Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

John 6:58 (Parallel theme): 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 for ever.

Deuteronomy 8:3 (Parallel theme): 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.

Joshua 5:12 (Parallel theme): And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.