

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 ἔστιν 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 withheldst 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.