

John 6:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.

Analysis

The Jews murmured about Jesus' claim to be bread from heaven, echoing their ancestors' murmuring against God in the wilderness (Exodus 16:2). Murmuring reveals unbelief and rebellion. Their offense at His claim shows how divine truth offends natural understanding. The Reformed doctrine affirms that natural man cannot receive spiritual truth apart from grace (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Historical Context

Murmuring (Greek: gonguzo) was characteristic of Israel in the wilderness, expressing discontent with God's provision. The parallel between this crowd and their ancestors demonstrates that unbelief transcends generations when hearts are hard.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does 'murmuring' reveal underlying unbelief and resistance to God's truth?

2. What does the parallel between this crowd and Israel in the wilderness teach about patterns of unbelief?

Interlinear Text

Ἐγόγγυζον	οὖν	τοῦ	Ἰουδαῖοι	περὶ	αὐτοῦ	ὅτι	εἶπεν	
murmured	then	which	The Jews	at	him	because	he said	
G1111	G3767	G3588	G2453	G4012	G846	G3754	G2036	
Ἐγώ	εἰμι	τοῦ	ἄρτος	τοῦ	καταβὰς	ἐκ	τοῦ οὐρανοῦ	
I	am	which	the bread	which	came down	from	which	heaven
G1473	G1510	G3588	G740	G3588	G2597	G1537	G3588	G3772

Additional Cross-References

John 6:33 (Parallel theme): For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

John 6:48 (Parallel theme): I am that bread of life.

John 6:60 (Parallel theme): Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

John 6:66 (Parallel theme): From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

John 7:12 (Parallel theme): And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.