

John 6:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I am that bread of life.

Analysis

Christ repeats and reinforces 'I am that bread of life' for emphasis, developing the contrast with wilderness manna. This claim—to be the bread that gives eternal life—is either blasphemy or truth. The exclusive article 'that' indicates Christ alone satisfies spiritual need. This statement anticipates the Last Supper and develops John's incarnational theology: the Word made flesh becomes spiritual sustenance for believers.

Historical Context

Jewish listeners would immediately connect this to Exodus 16 and God's provision of manna. Jesus claims superiority to Moses' miracle, which many Jews believed the Messiah would repeat. The synagogue in Capernaum (v. 59) has been excavated, possibly the setting for this discourse.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do you 'feed' on Christ daily as your spiritual sustenance?
2. What does it mean that Christ is THE bread, not merely A bread, of life?

Interlinear Text

ἐγώ	εἰμι	ὁ	ἄρτος	τῆς	ζωῆς
I	am	G3588	that bread	G3588	of life
G1473	G1510		G740		G2222

Additional Cross-References

John 6:51 (Parallel theme): I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

John 6:41 (Parallel theme): The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven.