

WHY BREAD?

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At the Communion Service, or Breaking of Bread service, why do we use bread?

Why did the Lord Jesus choose bread?

Unleavened bread was used at the Passover, which speaks of salvation from the Angel of Death. Unleavened breads were flat breads having no rising agent.

In keeping the Passover, the Lord Jesus was maintaining Jewish law. Although He remained Divine, in His Humanity, he was a good Jew, if I may say this reverently.

Bread also speaks of manna, sometimes called heavenly food, which the children of Israel ate in the wilderness and of which they tired and complained.

There are brethren who use the word loaf instead of bread.

A Jewish woman would produce a batch of dough and cook it. Then she would cut it up into loaves. The bread was the complete item. A loaf would be a small portion of the bread. You could make a loaf from the middle of the batch and, therefore, it would have no crusts.

Today, you can buy loaf pans.

The Lord Jesus did not say, "I am the loaf of life." That, in itself, does not sound right. Similarly, I cannot refer to the bread at the breaking of bread service as a loaf or the loaf under the table,

He said. "I am the Bread of life; he that partaketh of me shall never hunger." (John 6.35)

Remember, He was born in Bethlehem which name means the House of Bread.

The background of this expression of the Lord was the feeding of the 5,000. Some of the people were so impressed that they wanted to make Him King.

The so-called Lord's Prayer includes the request; Give us this day our daily bread. It cannot be the Lord's Prayer for he could not pray to be forgiven His trespasses. In Him was no sin. It is called the Lord's Prayer because the Lord taught His disciples how to pray.

Not realising that this bread that the Lord mentioned was spiritual food the disciples said, "Lord, evermore give us this bread."

At the Passover, the unleavened bread was eaten with bitter herbs. There is no mention of bitter herbs at the Last Supper.

What is not readily realised is that the Bread of Life was the antidote for the eating of the forbidden fruit. As in Adam, all die; even so, in Christ shall all be made alive.

Every country in the world has some sort of bread. Bread is associated with life, health, prosperity and nourishment.

Bread in the Biblical context is spiritual feeding. Years ago we were told to feed upon the living bread. The implication was that we needed physical food daily and we needed spiritual food daily.

Catholics believe in transubstantiation... that the bread, or wafer at Mass, actually becomes the physical flesh of Christ. But bread, and wine, are symbols only. Catholics believe that the sacraments of the church save you such as baptism, which is christening, marriage, the confessional, the Mass etc

It is not the sacraments, church or the bread that saves and gives eternal life, but Christ whose body was broken for us... for all who will accept Him as Saviour and Lord.

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