

Sermon #47 — *Discovering Christ in Leviticus*

Title:            **THE BREAD OF GOD**

Text:            Leviticus 21:6

Subject:        *Christ the Bread of God*

Date:            Tuesday Evening — April 30, 2019

Readings:      *Jimmy Bowman and David Burge*

Introduction:

My subject is — **THE BREAD OF GOD**. You will find my text in the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of Leviticus. Those words, “*the bread of God,*” are found only here in the in the Old Testament Scriptures.

(Leviticus 21:6) They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, *and **the bread of their God***, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.

(Leviticus 21:8) Thou shalt sanctify him therefore; for he offereth **the bread of thy God**: he shall be holy unto thee: for I the LORD, which sanctify you, *am* holy.

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(Leviticus 21:17) Speak unto Aaron, saying, Whosoever *he be* of thy seed in their generations that hath *any* blemish, let him not approach to offer **the bread of his God**.

(Leviticus 21:21) No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer **the bread of his God**.

(Leviticus 21:22) He shall eat **the bread of his God**, *both* of the most holy, and of the holy.

(Leviticus 22:25) Neither from a stranger's hand shall ye offer **the bread of your God** of any of these; because their corruption *is* in them, *and* blemishes *be* in them: they shall not be accepted for you.

We do not find those words, “*the bread of God*,” anywhere else in the Bible, until we get to the 6<sup>th</sup>

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chapter of John's Gospel. There our Lord Jesus Christ uses these exact words and tells us that they apply to him.

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

(John 6:35) And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Obviously, When our Savior said that, he was referring to this 21<sup>st</sup> chapter of Leviticus and telling us that "*the Bread of God*" in the Tabernacle pointed to and typified him.

**Proposition:** The Lord Jesus Christ is the Bread of God, the Bread of Life to our souls. — **The showbread the priests offered continually upon**

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**the Table of Showbread pointed to him who is “the Bread of God.”**

**BRAZEN ALTAR**

1<sup>st</sup> — The Brazen Altar was the first thing seen by anyone entering the Tabernacle. The sacrifice must be slain. Its blood must be shed. The sin-atonement lamb must be consumed in the fire of God’s burning justice upon the altar of the Holy Lord God, before anything else was done.

- All religion, without blood is vain, meaningless religion.
- All the beauty, pomp, and pageantry of religion without the blood is a worthless show.

**The priest could not even see the Table of Showbread until the sacrifice was complete.** Even so, we cannot feed on Christ, the Bread of God, until he is received as the sacrificial Lamb of God who shed his blood in our stead. In the worship of God

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the Sacrifice is everything! The sacrifice of God's dear Son is everything!

**SHOWBREAD TABLE**

2<sup>nd</sup> — As the High Priest passed the Brazen Altar, going into the Holy Place, the Golden Candlestick would be on his left. The Table of Showbread was on his right. **It was made of shittim wood, an incorruptible wood, which was overlaid with pure gold.**

- Our Lord's Real Humanity
- His Glorious Divinity
- His Unchanging Character

Twelve loaves of bread were placed on the table, six in a row. Frankincense was put on these cakes because the showbread was an offering made by fire unto the Lord. The table and the bread were considered as one. The word "*showbread*" might be translated...

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- “Bread of the Presence,” speaking of God’s presence.
- It is called “Continual Bread” (Numbers 4:7), speaking of our God’s continual presence with us and our abiding presence with him.
- The ancients called it “The Bread of Faces.” — Here, in the Bread of God, in the offering of this Bread, we see the face of God. And in eating “*the Bread of God*” we see our own faces.

## CHRIST OUR BREAD

3<sup>rd</sup> — Our Lord Jesus Christ is “*the bread of God*.” This is what he tells us in the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter of John (John 6:31-58).

- The showbread consisted of twelve loaves made without leaven, representing the purity, holiness, and righteousness of our Redeemer.
- This showbread placed on the golden table in the Holy Place every Sabbath. — Christ is our Sabbath, our Rest, the Rest the wherewith the Lord causeth “*the weary to rest, and their*

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*refreshing*” (Isaiah 28:12; Psalm 116:7; Matthew 11:28-30).

- The number of loaves was twelve, speaking of the twelve tribes of Israel. — **Christ is Bread for God’s Elect.** — There is in our Father’s house Bread enough and to spare!

**MAKING BREAD**

4<sup>th</sup> — The making of bread is not easy work. And our dear Savior was made “*the Bread of God.*” **He was made “the Bread of Life,” that we might live by him.** To make bread grain has to be ground into flour. The flour has to be sifted. Then the bread must be mixed, molded, and baked. Making bread involves the planning and the work of determined hands. So it was with the making of “*the Bread of God.*”

- He was made “*the Bread of God*” by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God.
- He was formed as “*the Bread of God*” in the womb of the virgin by God the Holy Ghost.

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- He was sifted and ground as “*the Bread of God*” in Gethsemane.
- And “*the Bread of God*” was baked in the fiery oven of God’s holy fury and wrath at Calvary!

(Lamentations 1:12-14) *Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger. (13) From above hath **he sent fire into my bones**, and it prevaieth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate and faint all the day. (14) **The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand**: they are wreathed, and come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into *their* hands, from whom I am not able to rise up.*



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- The Lord Jesus first offered himself as “*the Bread of God*” and “*the Bread of Life*” to the holy, Triune God as our Great High Priest.
- Then, the sinner, when called by grace to life and faith in Christ, as one of God’s holy priesthood offers God this Bread of Life, Christ Jesus.
- And God gives us this Bread to eat. — **Bring God’s Bread to God and God will give you “the Bread of God” to eat forever!**

**BREAD EATEN**

5<sup>th</sup> — This we must do. We must eat this Bread. **“The Bread of God” must be eaten by me or it can never be “The Bread of Life” to me** (John 6:31-58).

(John 6:31-58) Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. (32) Then Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father**

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**giveth you the true bread from heaven.** (33)  
**For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.**

(34) Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. (35) And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.** (36) But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not. (37) **All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.** (38) For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (39) And **this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.** (40) And this is the will of him that sent me, that everyone which seeth the Son, and believeth on

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him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

(41) **The Jews then murmured at him**, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. (42) And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?

(43) Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, **Murmur not among yourselves.** (44) **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.** (45) It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. (46) Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. (47) Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.** (48) **I am that bread of**

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**life.** (49) Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. (50) **This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.** (51) **I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**

(52) The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, **How can this man give us his flesh to eat?** (53) Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.** (54) **Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.** (55) For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. (56) **He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.** (57) As the living Father hath sent me,

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and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. (58) 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 forever.**

**I have eaten this Bread.** In fact, this is the Bread I eat every day, throughout the day. The more I eat this Bread, the more I hunger for it. **Let me tell you what I know by experience about this Bread.** The Lord Jesus Christ is...

- Suitable Bread.
- Saving Bread.
- Satisfying Bread.
- Sufficient Bread.
- Sweet Bread.

**ALWAYS PRESENT**

6<sup>th</sup> — The showbread, “*the Bread of God*” was always on the table in the Tabernacle. So it is in the

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House of God. — In this place “*the Bread of God*” is always on the table.

- The Bread of God on the table reminds us of God’s unfailing provision. — Jehovah-jireh!
- The Bread of God on the table has frankincense with it. — Christ’s Unfailing Intercession!
- The Bread of God on the table is the place of family unity for the family of God, his “*holy priesthood!*”
- The Bread of God on the table is Bread to be eaten. And eating this Bread is life eternal.
- The Bread of God, the Bread of Life, the Bread of Heaven is all I need (Colossians 2:9-10).

(Colossians 2:9-10) For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (10) And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.

**Go back to Leviticus 21** for just a minute. I want you to see one more thing before I send you home. — **Priests with blemishes are God’s priests still.**

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Some have bald heads, others have crooked backs. Some are clubfooted and some have twisted limbs. We all have our blemishes in this body of flesh, blemishes Satan is quick to point out to us, blemishes we see plainly.

- Blemished priests cannot offer the Bread of God. — Only our unblemished Great High Priest could do that.
- But blemished priests are still God's priests. And the Bread of God on the Table in His House is placed there for blemished priests like you and me to eat.

(Leviticus 21:21-22) No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God. (22) He shall eat the bread of his God, *both* of the most holy, and of the holy.

Poor, starving souls, trying to feed

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On husks that cannot meet your need,  
Behold, the Gospel Table spread—  
Christ Jesus is the Living Bread!

This Bread, which money cannot buy,  
Will life impart and life supply.  
It fills the hungry with delight,  
And never spoils your appetite.

This Bread of Life comes down from heav'n,  
By sov'reign grace, it's freely giv'n.  
This food and medicine to saints  
Revives the weary and the faint.

This Bread the carnal cannot taste;  
But heav'n-born souls upon it feast.  
Feasting, we feast and crave still more,  
To eat and live for evermore.

Amen!