

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Five

Five Loaves of Bread

In all four gospels we read of how that the Lord fed the multitude with five loaves of bread and two small fishes. The Lord had the multitude to sit down in companies of fifty and hundred. He then took the bread and blessed it and brake it and gave to the disciples who in turn gave to the multitudes. They all ate of the bread and of the fishes and were filled. They gathered up the fragments that remained and took up twelve baskets of fragments.

The Lord performed this great miracle. By his great miraculous power, he fed five thousand men, and their wives and children of five barley loaves and two small fishes and they all ate until they were full. A similar miracle happens each time a God called minister preaches the true gospel of Jesus Christ to God's waiting people. Only the Lord can give spiritual food to satisfy the spiritual hunger of his people. He must bless the message and open it to our understanding in order for us to feast upon it.

The five loaves teach us of the type of food that will satisfy the spiritual hungering of God's people. Bread is a symbol of the body of Christ:

1. Mat 26:26 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body."

2. Mark 14:22 "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body."

3. Luke 22:19 "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

4. 1 Cor 11:24 "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

5. John 6: 32 "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father 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."

Through the pure broken body of Jesus Christ who died on the cross to redeem us from our sin, we have a hope of heaven's glory world. We feast on the gospel message of salvation through the broken body (bread) of Christ. Christ's suffering and death for his people was the result of a five-part covenant made by God before the world began: Rom. 8:29, 30 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." The five loaves Jesus fed the people with are typical of this five-part covenant. It is according to this covenant Jesus came down from heaven and suffered, bled, and died to redeem us from our sin. Our spiritual inner man feasts upon this covenant work of Christ. Any so-called gospel that does not conform to the principles of this five-part covenant cannot spiritually feed the children of God.