

Psalm 78 — Bread of the Angels

Psalm 78:23–25 (with 78:17–20 · 78:29–31) · For posting on YouTube & Facebook. Use the overview for the description; add the prompt and links wherever they fit.

VIDEO OVERVIEW *(post-ready)*

Psalm 78 is Asaph's long retelling of Israel's history, and right in the middle of it sits one of the most staggering lines in the Old Testament. When God fed his people in the desert, Asaph says, "**he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. Man ate of the bread of the angels**" (Psalm **78:24–25**). Bread from heaven, food fit for angels, handed to a grumbling people in a wasteland. But the psalm won't let us stop at the miracle. These were the same people who had sneered, "**Can God spread a table in the wilderness?**" (78:19) — and after they ate their fill, they kept right on rebelling. Centuries later a crowd threw this very verse at Jesus: "Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat" (John **6:31**). And Jesus told them the manna was never the point. "I am the bread of life" (John **6:35**). The manna kept them alive for a day; he keeps them forever. This reading sits with the wonder of the bread of angels — and with the sobering truth that a person can eat heaven's bread and still miss the God who sent it.

GO DEEPER — STUDY PROMPT FOR VIEWERS

Open Psalm 78 and John 6 side by side. Read Psalm **78:17–31** — the craving, the bread of the angels, and what came after — then read John **6:26–51**, where Jesus takes that same manna and points to himself. Underline every place the crowd in John repeats what the wilderness generation did. Then sit with the hard question: is it possible to be fed by God and still not want God?

KEY PASSAGES REFERENCED

Elsewhere in John: John **6:31** (the crowd quotes this psalm) · John **6:32–35** ("the true bread from heaven"; "I am the bread of life") · John **6:49–51** ("your fathers ate the manna... and died")

Other Gospels: Matthew **4:4** (in his own wilderness: "man shall not live by bread alone")

Rest of Scripture: Exodus **16:4, 14–15** (the manna given) · Nehemiah **9:15, 20** (bread from heaven) · 1 Corinthians **10:3–5** (they ate spiritual food, yet fell)

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

Jesus Came Not to Give Bread but to Be Bread

John Piper — Desiring God

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/jesus-came-not-to-give-bread-but-to-be-bread>

On John 6 — how the crowd wanted the gift and missed the Giver, and why Christ himself is the bread we were made for.

Treasury of David — Psalm 78

Charles Spurgeon

<https://gracegems.org/Spurgeon/078.htm>

Verse-by-verse through the whole psalm, including the "bread of the mighty ones" that fell on feeble man.

Expository Thoughts on John — Chapter 6

J.C. Ryle

<https://gracegems.org/Ryle/j06.htm>

On the bread of life discourse — the gap between the perishing manna and the Bread that gives eternal life.