



Intro: Becoming a child again in all things... language, nothing to offer, relationships

God gave us a word for what our ministry would be identified with
BETLEMME: House of Bread.

Betlemme

Beth'lehem (*house of bread*)

1. **WHERE SONS ARE BORN TRANSFORMED**
2. **WHERE SHEEP ARE NOURISHED**
3. **WHERE SHEPHERDS ARE STRENGTHENED**
4. **WHERE FORGIVENESS IS FOUND**

The Lord added to this vision over the last year and I want to tell you about it.

Asaph gives a poem that is meant to teach the people an eternal truth.

Psa. 78:9 The Ephraimites, armed with the bow,
turned back on the day of battle.

¹⁰ They did not keep God's covenant,
but refused to walk according to his law.

¹¹ They forgot his works
and the wonders that he had shown them.

- There is a lot of speculation on when the Ephraimites turned back..
And this is less important.
 - They had the weapons but they didn't use them. They broke the Scriptures, they refused to walk.
1. It wasn't a **knowledge** problem.
 2. It wasn't a **strength** issue (they were one of the most powerful tribes,
and the face of the northern tribes.)
 3. It wasn't because they just weren't **blessed** enough (they had the greater
blessing of Manasseh Genesis 48:13–20)

It was a **REMEMBERING** problem.

You have the tools and weapons of old. You have the strength. You have
the blessing.

- Sometimes the weapons you have been given are deeper, and
sharper than you even realize

But have you forgotten? Have you failed to feast on the bread of life in
remembrance of Jesus.

Asaph begins to pick out certain details of their new **birth as a nation**.

We aren't going to read all of them, but I want to pick out a few.

¹² In the sight of their fathers he performed wonders
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.

¹³ He divided the sea and let them pass through it,
and made the waters stand like a heap.

- They forgot the miracles that led them to being baptized in the water of the sea that produced new resurrection life for them.
- Forgetting the death to life moments that God led us through...

Baptisms and opposition

¹⁴ In the daytime he led them with a cloud,
and all the night with a fiery light.

- They forgot the real presence of the Spirit of God leading them into life.
- According to neh 9:19-20 there is a connection about Spirit being manifest through the pillar and cloud.
- You don't get to control how the Spirit manifests.

Filled with the Spirit driving the car

¹⁵ He split rocks in the wilderness
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.

¹⁶ He made streams come out of the rock
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Yet they sinned still more against him,
rebellious against the Most High in the desert.

¹⁸ They tested God in their heart

by **demanding the food they craved.**

- Their faithlessness began internally
- They are not simply asking: “Will God feed us?”
- They are effectively saying: **“God, prove yourself by giving us what we want.”**

¹⁹ They spoke against God, saying,
“Can God spread a table in the wilderness?”

²⁰ He struck the rock so that water gushed out
and streams overflowed.
Can he also give bread
or provide meat for his people?”

Their question was God can you create abundance where there is seemingly nothing.

I want to tell you, yes He can.

There have been many moments we have found ourselves **starving** for you again.

PICTURE OF ME AND ELISEI AND CHRISTIAN

Psa. 78:21 Therefore, when the LORD heard, he was full of wrath;
a fire was kindled against Jacob;
his anger rose against Israel,
²² because they did not believe in God

and did not trust his saving power.

²³ Yet he commanded the skies above
and opened the doors of heaven,

²⁴ and he rained down on them **manna** to eat
and gave them **the grain** of heaven.

²⁵ **Man ate of the bread of the angels;**
he sent them food in abundance.

- Even in their rebellion and unbelief. God fed them with **heavenly** bread.
- Not just to sustain their bodies, but as another real and tangible manifestation of His presence.

In Italy there are tons of panifici oppure tanti forni in heaven. 3 P's of Italy.
Pane, pizza, pasta.

Is there a bread factory in heaven? Where did it come from?

There is a temple in heaven that has bread...

Lev. 24:5 “You shall take fine flour and bake twelve loaves from it; two tenths of an ephah shall be in each loaf. ⁶ And you shall set them in two piles, six in a pile, on the table of pure gold before the LORD. ⁷ And you shall put pure frankincense on each pile, that it may go with the bread as a memorial portion as a food offering to the LORD. ⁸ Every Sabbath day Aaron shall arrange it before the LORD regularly; it is from the people of Israel as a covenant forever. ⁹ And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall **eat it in a holy place**, since it is for him a **most holy portion** out of the LORD’S food offerings, **a perpetual due.**”

- In heaven, there is a temple, that contains the bread of the presence.
- Every day, except for the sabbath, the people ate manna, but there was one day, on the sabbath where the priests had to arrange the bread, and consume it. It was most holy.
- It was a unique and most holy feasting.

Ex. 25:23 “You shall make a table of acacia wood. Two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ²⁴ You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a molding of gold around it. ²⁵ And you shall make a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and a molding of gold around the rim. ²⁶ And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and fasten the rings to the four corners at its four legs. ²⁷ Close to the frame the rings shall lie, as holders for the poles to carry the table. ²⁸ You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, and the table shall be carried with these. ²⁹ And you shall make its plates and dishes for incense, and its flagons and bowls with **which to pour drink offerings**; you shall make them of pure gold. ³⁰ And you shall set the ^sbread of the Presence on the table before me regularly.

This was offered according to Numbers 28:9-10 every sabbath.

Because this is a copy of heaven, we know that there is a table in heaven that contains bread and wine.

This was a pattern people were expected to know..

Nehemiah 9:19-20

Recap explanation of pattern

When Asaph speaks about the **birth of the nation** Israel.

- It was by the hand of God
- Through the waters
- Led by the Holy Spirit
- And sustained by the Manna from heaven

[if TAC is an expert at anything it is producing children - babies being born 2x - born in cars]

John 1:9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet **the world did not know him.** ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God,** ¹³ **who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh** nor of **the will of man,** but of God.

FIRST BIRTH

bloods → physical ancestry

will of flesh → sexual/natural desire (doing the right acts to produce life)

will of man → the father's intention to produce offspring

This is physical birth.

Spiritual birth is different. Is anything being birthed through you right now?

- **Blood** --- something won't be birthed in you because you are in the right family
(here at TAC)
- **Nor of the flesh** --- something won't be birthed in you because of your natural desire or doing the right acts

- **Nor of the will of man** -- something won't be birthed in you because of your Father's or pastor's desires to produce righteous offspring.

You can't try to birth something spiritual through what is physical.

John 3:3-6 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again (above) he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

SECOND BIRTH

- **Of God** (John 1:13)
- **again/above** (John 3:3)
- **Water and Spirit** (John 3:5) - water isn't just the womb, it is historically by the church fathers seen as baptism.

How is this new life nourished?

Just like in Exodus as in Psalm 78, this new life is nourished through bread.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶ But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

- The way this new life or new birth nourished, is through feasting on the bread of life. Who is Jesus Christ.
 - You have been talking about feasting on the word, and I want to add another aspect
-
- **Being born into the right family (blood)**, or going to the right church, will be eternally helpful, but it won't fix your internal starvation problem.
- Your own **natural desire** or hunger will serve you, but it won't satisfy you unless you feast upon Jesus Christ.
- Your **Spiritual fathers desire** for you to become righteous offspring, is a GIFT, but unless you feast on the bread of life, you will remain in the state of an emaciated son.

WHAT WE SEE IN JOHN'S PROGRESSION

1. You can see Jesus, but not know Him.
2. Something can only be birthed from above, by the renewal and washing of the Holy Spirit
3. New life is sustained by the bread of life. The very real tangible presence of Jesus.

RECAP

When Asaph speaks about the birth of the nation Israel.

- It was by the hand of God
- Through the waters
- Led by the Holy Spirit
- And sustained by the Manna from heaven

When John speaks about new birth:

- It is from God and above
- It is by the water and the Spirit

- It is sustained through the bread of life Jesus

One of the greatest Manifestations of the presence of God in the last two years at Betlemme (which means House of Bread) has been during the time of feasting on the bread of presence during communion.

- Started with studying about hot button issues surrounding Catholicism.
- A Hunger that began to stir because we were missing something.

1 year ago (Bruno and Jessica)

- Had a couple (met at italian class)
- 4 months ago (a man who was

Vali receiving the Lord

Jiu Jitsu ministry - a couple came - missed sermon - wrecked in the presence of the Lord - 1500s the table of the Lord was replaced by a pulpit.

Enriko and His wife.

COMMUNION

This is what I have found to be true about feasting on the bread of life.

Communion is the holy rehearsal for eternity - which will be actualized at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

As we meet at the Lord's table, to break the bread of His body and drink the wine of His blood, the presence of Jesus is real, alive, unique, manifest, and sacred.

This is through the power of the Holy Spirit, and received in faith.

Communion is not meant to be taken as a mere symbol, or as a religious exercise.

It must be taken in a worthy manner.

It is meant to unite us with Christ - empowering us to **remain** in union with Him - as we advance His kingdom on earth and follow Him into suffering and victory.

We give thanks as we remember His death - which gives us strength to suffer as he did.

We eagerly anticipate His return - which empowers us with a victorious spirit that will obtain the resurrection of the dead (Philippians 3:10-11).

I want to look at what Jesus says about himself being this heavenly bread, or manna. That is meant to sustain new birth.

John 6:31

³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³² Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

- There is a connection being made.
- The manna, came down from heaven, but was not the true bread of heaven.
- Where the manna came from (the temple of God) so has Jesus who was seated at the right hand of the father.

John 6:35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst...”

- This is how the new life is nourished.

John 6:41 So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. **48** I am the bread of life. **49** Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. **50** This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. **51** I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that **I will give** for the life of the world is my flesh.”

- The manna in the wilderness was temporary.
- The manna of God was for Israel, but the bread of life is for the entire world.
- (I WILL GIVE) So Jesus is not talking about his earthly body being eaten.
- Will give also contains the death of Jesus and his resurrection life

John 6:52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

This is a valid point...

- **Genesis 9:4** — “But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood.”
- **Leviticus 3:17** — “You shall eat neither fat nor blood.”

- **Leviticus 7:26–27** — Israel is commanded not to eat any blood, whether of bird or animal.
- **Leviticus 17:10–14** — the strongest and fullest prohibition. God says he will set his face against anyone who eats blood, because **“the life of the flesh is in the blood”** and the blood has been given for atonement.
- **Leviticus 19:26** — “You shall not eat any flesh with the blood in it.”
- **Deuteronomy 12:16** — “Only you shall not eat the blood; you shall pour it out on the earth like water.”
- **Deuteronomy 12:23–25** — “Only be sure that you do not eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh.”
- **Deuteronomy 15:23** — “Only you shall not eat its blood; you shall pour it out on the ground like water.”
- **1 Samuel 14:31–35** — Saul’s soldiers sin by eating animals **“with the blood.”** Saul calls it a sin against the LORD.
- **Ezekiel 33:25** — God condemns Israel: “You eat flesh with the blood...”
- **Acts 15:20** — the Jerusalem Council instructs Gentile believers to abstain from “what has been strangled and from blood.”
- **Acts 15:28–29** — again: “abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled...”

Jesus doubles down

53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have **no life** in you. **54** Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. **55** For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. **56** Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. **57** As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. **58** This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” **59** Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

John 6:60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶² Then what if you were to see the Son of Man **ascending** to where he was before? ⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵ And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

- Jesus is not telling the disciples to eat His physical and earthly body, but they will need to feast on the crucified, resurrected, and glorified body of Christ which will cause them to live forever.

Jesus at the passover feast and initiating communion

Luke 22:19-20

19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” 20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.”

When. You think back to psalm 78 - the people forgot. The people forgot how God had nourished them with the bread of Angels. The bread from heaven.

1 cor 11:16 a participated memorial, that causes us to proclaim the gospel until he comes. (Taking Passover it was for you then - as the angel, the destroyer was coming that night)

How we are nourished through communion...

1Cor. 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

15 I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. **16** The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a **participation** in the body of Christ? **17** Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all **partake** of the one bread.

1Cor. 10:20 No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice ^gthey offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. **21** ^hYou cannot drink the cup of the Lord and ⁱthe cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and ^jthe table of demons.

Idolatry is adultery.

Participation = 2842. **κοινωνία koinonia**, *koy-nohn-ee'-ah*; from 2844; partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction: — (to) communicate(-ation), communion, (contri-)distribution, fellowship. Sexual alliance

Intercourse is the most sacred and personal expression of the covenant of marriage.

The way to fellowship with Christ is through the breaking of bread

Because this is covenantal renewal with the body of Christ. To understand how sacred this is, within a marriage covenant, intimacy is one of the most precious

regular renewals of a covenant between a man and wife. but just like communion it is not just about the physical act. The physical act itself helps to bring about something that transcends it, oneness.

You recently heard an amazing message about how to minister to the Jewish people from the story of the Road to Emmaus.

I want to point out something at the end..

Luke 24:28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, **he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.** ³¹ **And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.** ³² They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while **he opened to us the Scriptures?**”

- It wasn't until Jesus broke the bread that recognizes fully that His presence was there with them.
- Their hearts burned as the Scriptures were opened, yet they recognized who Jesus was in His glorified state when He broke the bread.
- Feasting on the bread of Jesus' glorified body through communion is what allows us to know Him in His true glorified state.

Mark 16:12 After these things he appeared **in another form to two** of them, as they were walking into the country. ¹³ And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.