

MIRACULOUS FEEDING

When you think of a miraculous feeding in the Bible, your first thought is probably Jesus feeding the 5,000 (Mark 6).

When you think of a miraculous feeding in the OT, your first thought is probably manna and the Exodus generation (Deut.8:11-16).

One thing that makes Elisha's miraculous feeding interesting is its similarity to the miraculous feeding of Jesus.

A second thing that makes Elisha's miraculous feeding interesting is the shadow Christology in it:

(Col.2:17) "Things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ."

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

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| • Faithful followers | (2 Kg.4:42a) | Baal-shalishah |
| • Firstfruits offering | (2 Kg.4:42b) | Barley grain |
| • Feeding of Crowd | (2 Kg.4:42c-43a) | Blessing of shadow Christology |
| • Faith in Word of God | (2 Kg.4:43b-44) | Bread left over |

We will need to divide this lesson into two parts:

In the first part of this lesson, we will study four aspects of the biblical history of the Jewish festival of Firstfruits and its shadow Christology that are the background to the miraculous feeding.

In the second part of this lesson, we will study four aspects of Elisha's miraculous feeding.

1. We need to understand the Jewish festival of Firstfruits since it is the background to our lesson.

(2 Kg.4:42) "Now a man came from Baal-shalishah and brought the man of God bread of the Firstfruits, twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. And he (Elisha) said, 'give them to the people that they may eat.'"

The feast of Firstfruits was one of seven major "Shadow Christology" Jewish festivals:

(Lev.23:4) "These are the appointed times of the lord, holy convocations which you shall proclaim at the times appointed for them."

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| • Passover | Lev.23:4-5 |
| • Unleavened Bread | Lev.23:6-8 |
| • Firstfruits | Lev.23:9-14 |
| • Pentecost (Weeks) | Lev.23:15-22 |
| • Trumpets | Lev.23:23-25 |
| • Atonement | Lev.23:26-32 |
| • Tabernacles | Lev.23:33-44 |

NOTE: The first four are associated with the First Coming of Jesus Christ. The second three are associated with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

2. The first four are associated with “Shadow Christology”, fulfilled by Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world.

(John 4:42) “And they were saying to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.’”

(Heb.9:28) “So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.”

Dates, Events, and Shadow Christology connect all four of these Jewish festivals.

- **Passover** (Jewish Calendar: Nisan 14)
 - Passover lamb and blood on doorposts (Ex.12:1-14)
- **Unleavened bread** (Jewish Calendar: Nisan 15-21)
 - Hasty exodus from bondage (Ex.12:15-20; 13:7; Deut.16:1-4) – it opens and closes with holy convocations or high sabbaths (Lev.23:7-8)
- **Firstfruits** (first day after weekly Sabbath (Saturday) of Unleavened Bread)
 - Acceptability and blessings in the Promise Land (Ex.23:16, 19; Lev.23:10-11; Deut.16:9; 18:4; 26:1-11) – High Sabbath (Num.28:26)
- **Pentecost** (Seven full Weeks or 50 days after Firstfruits)
 - (Lev.23:15-16, 20-21) Celebration of harvest that began at Firstfruits (Deut.16:9-12) - High Sabbath (Lev.23:21).

These Holy Convocations are High Sabbaths: “You shall do no laborious work”.

(John 19:31) “The Jews therefore, because it was the day of preparation (for Unleavened Bread), so that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (**for that Sabbath was a high day**), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”

3. We will examine how these four Jewish festivals were brought to fulfillment by Jesus Christ beginning with His crucifixion in 30 AD (Rom.10:4).

Passover (Nisan 14) [Wednesday]

Passover lamb and blood (Matt.26:2, 26-28; John 1:29, 36; 1 Cor.5:7; 1 Pet.1:18; 2:24; 3:18) Death of Jesus Christ on cross for sins of world (1 Cor.15:3).

Unleavened Bread (Nisan 15th-21st) [Both High Sabbaths – the beginning and end of Unleavened Bread]

Nisan 15th, [Thursday], 16th [Friday] 17th [Saturday] (a Weekly Sabbath) three days of burial of Jesus (Mark 16:1-2; Matt.12:40; John 2:19-21)

Firstfruits (Nisan 18th) the day after the weekly Sabbath (Sunday)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ and harvest of Resurrection of Believers (Matt.27:62-66; 28:1, 7; 1 Cor.15:4, 17, 20-23, 35-38; Acts 26:22-23; Col.1:18; Rev.1:5) – High Sabbath (Num.28:26)

Pentecost (50 days after Firstfruits) [Sunday or first day of week]

40 days of post-resurrection appearances of Jesus then His ascension (1 Cor.15:5-6; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:2-5, 10-11)

10 days in the upper room and the Advent of the Holy Spirit, the beginning of the Church Age (Acts 2:1, 31-33; Matt.3:11; John 16:5-7) – High Sabbath (Lev.23:21)