

Biblical History by Taste: A Biographical Sketch of Food in the Bible

Garden of Eden (Adam & Eve)

- Provision of Food
- Prohibition of the Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil
- Temptation & Deception in the Form of Food
- Yielding to Temptation & Deception by Eve
- Willful Disobedience by Adam
- Penalty to Adam Involves Sweat of the Brow & Thorns/Thistles in Bringing in Food
- Driven from the Garden so as to Prevent Eating of the Tree of Life

Noah

- Drunken After the Flood (no Fermentation Prior? Never Condemned for It)
- Change in Diet (Meat Added)

Abraham

- Goes to Egypt Because of Famine
- Feeds the Visitors that Destroy Sodom & Gomorrah

Jacob

- Esau sold birthright to Jacob for a meal (Gen 25:29-34; 27:36; Heb 12:16)
- At the urging of his mother, Jacob cooked for his father Isaac in order to steal Esau's blessing (Gen 27:1-36)

Joseph

- Used by God to Deliver a Multitude from Famine
- Judged His Brothers by a Meal (gives extra to Benjamin)

Moses

- Passover Initiated to Free Israel, and to Become Permanent Observance (Ex 12; Num 9; Deut 16; 2 Chron 30 & 35; Ezra 6:19-20; Matt 26:17-19; Luke 22)
- People complained to and against Moses & Aaron about food (Ex 16:1-3)
- God tests the people regarding the gathering of manna (Ex 16:4-5)
- God supplies manna every morning, 6 day/week, for 40 years (Ex 16:4-36; Num 11:6-8; Deut 8:3,16, Josh 5:12; Neh 9:20-21; Ps 78:24-25; Ps 105:40; John 6:31,49,58)
- Bowl of Manna placed in Arc of Covenant with the 10 C & Aaron's rod that budded (Ex 16:33-34; Heb 9:4)
- People complained & wept about not having meat (& long for Egypt) (Num 11:1-17)
- God gives quail for 30 straight days, until the people are sick of it, & with a very great plague (Ex 16:12-13; Num 11:18-35; Ps 78:26-31; Ps 105:40)
- The Sabbath (initiated with the collection of manna)
- Law Instructions, Restrictions, Feasts & Offerings
- Tithes of Firstfruits
- Harvesting Laws

Proverbs

- Sluggardliness Regarding Growing and Gathering Food (Ants – Prov 6:6-11)
- Drunkenness & Gluttony (Prov 23:21)
- Appetite (Prov 23:1-3)

Ecclesiastes

- Work, Eat, and Enjoy Each Day (3:13)
¹² I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, ¹³ and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor-- it [is] the gift of God. (Eccl 3:12-13; also 5:19, etc.S)

Israel

- Sabbath Rests
- Feast of Unleavened Bread
- Priests & Levites paid in part by food (their inheritance)

Prophets

- Elijah – Fed by Ravens (1 Kings 17)
- Elijah – Fed by widow and her son (1 Kings 17:1-16)
- Elijah – Fed by God when fearful and exhausted (1 Kings 19:1-8)
- Elishah – Fed by childless Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:1-8)

Ruth

- Gleaning in Boaz's fields

Hannah

- Not eating (fasting) a sign of anguish (1 Sam 1:7-8)

David

- Fasting an indication of mourning for Abner (2 Sam 3:35)
- Fasting an indication of entreaty (2 Sam 12:17 – David with Bathsheba's son; Esther 4:16)
- Food as a source of deception (2 Sam 13:5-11 – Amnon and Tamar)

Daniel

- Would not Defile Himself with the King's Food
- Nebuchadnezzar Eats Grass
- Belshazzar Drunken Party

Jesus & His Teachings

- Tempted to Make Stones into Bread
- Accused of Being a Glutton & a Drunkard (Matt 11:19; Luk 7:34)
- Bread (Manna) of Life (John 6:47-58)
- Plucking & Eating on the Sabbath
- Feeding of 5000 and 4000
- Take no Thought; Seek first the kingdom of God
- Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread
- Prodigal Son Ends Up Eating Husks (and Remembers His Father)
- Prodigal Son's Father Kills the Fatted Calf for His Returned Son
- Give something to eat or drink in My name = giving it to Me
- Giving glass of water in prophet's name = prophet's reward
- Ate with Pharisees, Zacheus, etc.
- Passover – Communion
- Reveals Betrayer by Food
- Breaks bread with the Emmaus Road disciples
- Eats to prove His physical resurrection
- Feed My Sheep

Church

- Continued in Breaking of Bread
- Famine in Jerusalem → Sharing & Giving
- Feed the Widows (Acts 6 → Deacons)
- Do all to the Glory of God (1 Cor 10:31; Zech 7:5-7)
- One Bread, One Body (1 Cor 10:17)
- Communion with Consideration of Others (1 Cor 11)
- Spiritual Metaphor of Sowing & Reaping
- Work or Don't Eat
- Provide for Your Family
- Contentment
- Don't Eat with Sinful Believers
- Spiritual Metaphor of Milk/Meat (1 Cor 2-3, 1 Pet 2:1-3; Heb 5-6)
- To him who overcomes, God will give some hidden manna to eat (Rev 2:17)

Anti-Christ

- Controls Buying & Selling of Food

Future

- Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- Millennium – Vegetarians All

Some Quick Observations:

1. God Faithfully Supplies Food to Feed Us
2. God Regularly Uses Food to Test Us (Deut 8:16)
3. God Consistently Requires About Food the Right Attitude From Us
4. God Wonderfully Provides Food as a Blessing and Something to Be Enjoyed By Us
5. God Lovingly Uses Food (and the Lack of Food) to Teach Us (Deut 8:3)
6. God Justly Withholds Food to Punish or Correct Us
7. God Rightly Expects that Our Desire Food Is Not to Rule Us Is to Be Ruled by Us (true of all other appetites)
8. God Carefully Uses Food to Remind Us
9. God Rightfully Requires Our Use of Food to Glorify Him

Next Week: Can I Eat Anything? Food Principles that Are in Effect for Believers Today