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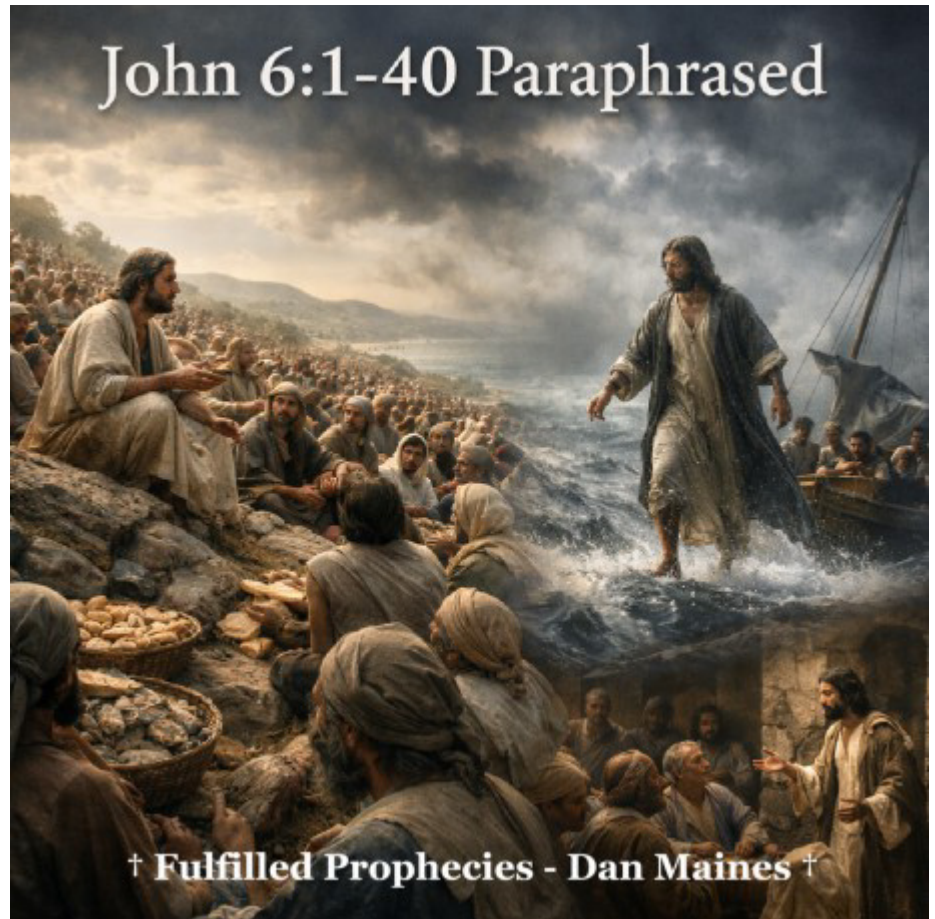
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## John 6:1-40 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## John 6:1-40 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† This chapter shows Jesus revealing Himself as the true bread from heaven, not just feeding bodies but giving life.

† The crowd followed Him for signs, but He redirected them to the deeper reality of fulfillment and covenant life (John 5:39-40).

† This is about transition, from physical provision under Moses to spiritual fulfillment in Christ.

### John 6:1

After this, Jesus crossed over the Sea of Galilee.

† He moves intentionally, drawing a crowd for what is about to be revealed.

† This isn't random travel, it's setting the stage for a greater sign.

† His movement reflects purpose tied to revelation (Isaiah 55:10-11).

### **John 6:2**

A large crowd kept following Him because they saw the signs He was doing on the sick.

† They followed the miracles, not the message.

† Their focus was physical healing, not spiritual truth.

† This exposes the shallow motivation of the crowd (Matthew 13:20-21).

### **John 6:3**

Jesus went up on the mountain and sat there with His disciples.

† Sitting shows teaching authority.

† The mountain reflects a place of revelation, like Moses before.

† He's about to give a new kind of provision (Exodus 19:3).

### **John 6:4**

Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was near.

† This ties directly to the Exodus and manna.

† The timing is intentional, pointing to fulfillment.

† Jesus is about to show He's greater than Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15).

### **John 6:5**

Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming to Him, and He said to Philip, Where are we to buy bread so these may eat?

† He tests Philip, not because He doesn't know.

† This question exposes human limitation.

† God often tests to reveal faith (Exodus 16:4).

### **John 6:6**

He said this to test him, for He Himself knew what He was going to do.

† Jesus already has the answer.

† The test reveals dependence on Him.

† This shows divine control over the situation.

### **John 6:7**

Philip answered Him, Two hundred denarii worth of bread isn't enough for each of them to receive a little.

† Philip calculates naturally.

† He sees lack instead of provision.

† This reflects reliance on human resources.

### **John 6:8**

One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him,

† Andrew steps forward with what little they have.

† Even small faith begins to look to Jesus.

† This shows movement toward trust.

### **John 6:9**

There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are these for so many people?

† The supply seems insignificant.

† Yet Jesus works through small offerings.

† God multiplies what is given (2 Kings 4:42-44).

### **John 6:10**

Jesus said, Have the people sit down. Now there was much grass in the place, so the men sat down, about five thousand in number.

† He brings order before provision.

† The number shows the scale of the miracle.

† This echoes shepherd imagery (Psalm 23:2).

### **John 6:11**

Jesus then took the loaves, and after giving thanks, He distributed them to those who were seated, likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted.

† He gives thanks before multiplying.

† Provision flows from Him alone.

† This points to Him as the source of abundance.

### **John 6:12**

When they were filled, He said to His disciples, Gather up the leftover fragments so nothing will be lost.

† There is more than enough.

† Nothing is wasted in God's provision.

† This shows completeness.

### **John 6:13**

So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

† Twelve baskets reflect Israel.

† Provision extends to the whole covenant people.

† This symbolizes fullness and restoration.

### **John 6:14**

Therefore when the people saw the sign which He had performed, they said, This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.

† They recognize Him partially.

† They connect Him to prophecy.

† But they still misunderstand His mission.

### **John 6:15**

So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.

† They want a political king.

† Jesus rejects earthly expectations.

† His kingdom isn't of this world (John 18:36).

### **John 6:16**

Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea,

† The scene shifts to another sign.

† The disciples are separated from Him.

† This sets up a test of trust.

### **John 6:17**

and after getting into a boat, they started to cross the sea to Capernaum. It had already become dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

† Darkness represents uncertainty.

† They are without His visible presence.

† This reflects moments of testing.

### **John 6:18**

The sea began to be stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.

† Chaos enters the scene.

† Trials often follow moments of revelation.

† This tests their faith.

### **John 6:19**

Then, when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near to the boat, and they were frightened.

† Jesus comes over the chaos.

† He shows authority over creation.

† Fear reveals their lack of understanding.

### **John 6:20**

But He said to them, It is I, don't be afraid.

† His presence brings peace.

† He identifies Himself clearly.

† Faith replaces fear.

### **John 6:21**

So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

† Once He is received, the journey is complete.

† This shows His power over time and space.

† His presence brings fulfillment.

### **John 6:22**

The next day the crowd that stood on the other side of the sea saw that there was no other small boat there except one, and that Jesus hadn't entered with His disciples into the boat, but that His disciples had gone away alone.

† The crowd is still tracking Him.

† Their focus remains physical.

† They seek signs, not truth.

### **John 6:23**

Other small boats came from Tiberias near to the place where they ate the bread after the Lord had given thanks.

† The location confirms the miracle.

† The memory of provision draws them.

† Yet they still misunderstand.

### **John 6:24**

So when the crowd saw that Jesus wasn't there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats and came to Capernaum seeking Jesus.

† They seek Him, but for the wrong reason.

† Their desire is driven by what they received.

† This sets up His correction.

### **John 6:25**

When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, Rabbi, when did You get here?

- † They are curious about the sign.
- † They miss the meaning behind it.
- † Their focus is still outward.

### **John 6:26**

Jesus answered them and said, Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

- † He exposes their motive.
- † They followed for food, not truth.
- † This is a direct rebuke.

### **John 6:27**

Don't work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.

- † He shifts them to eternal reality.
- † The true provision comes from Him.
- † This is covenant fulfillment.

### **John 6:28**

Therefore they said to Him, What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?

- † They think in terms of effort.
- † They seek a checklist.
- † This reflects law-based thinking.

### **John 6:29**

Jesus answered and said to them, This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.

- † Faith replaces works.
- † The focus is on trusting Him.
- † This fulfills the law (Habakkuk 2:4).

### **John 6:30**

So they said to Him, What then do You do as a sign, so that we

may see, and believe You? What work do You perform?

† They demand more proof.

† They ignore what they've already seen.

† This shows unbelief.

### **John 6:31**

Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, He gave them bread out of heaven to eat.

† They point back to Moses.

† They compare Jesus to past provision.

† They still don't see He is greater.

### **John 6:32**

Jesus then said to them, Truly, truly, I say to you, it wasn't Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread out of heaven.

† He corrects their understanding.

† The source was always God.

† Now the true bread is revealed.

### **John 6:33**

For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world.

† The bread is a person, not food.

† It gives life beyond Israel.

† This includes the nations.

### **John 6:34**

Then they said to Him, Lord, always give us this bread.

† They still think physically.

† Yet they desire it continually.

† They are close but not understanding.

### **John 6:35**

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.

† He reveals Himself plainly.

† He is the fulfillment of all provision.

† This is covenant life.

### **John 6:36**

But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet don't believe.

† Seeing doesn't equal believing.

† Their hearts remain closed.

† This exposes their condition.

### **John 6:37**

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

† There is assurance in Him.

† Those given will come.

† This shows covenant security.

### **John 6:38**

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

† He operates under the Father's will.

† His mission is defined and certain.

† This shows unity with the Father.

### **John 6:39**

This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.

† Nothing given is lost.

† The raising is covenant fulfillment.

† This points to the completion in that generation.

### **John 6:40**

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.

† Eternal life is present through belief.

† The last day refers to the end of that covenant age.

† This is fulfilled reality, not future speculation.

### **Historical References**

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 3, describes manna as a temporary provision, pointing beyond itself.

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies, connects Christ as the true bread from heaven.

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata, speaks of spiritual nourishment in Christ surpassing physical food.

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, records early understanding of Christ as fulfillment of the law and prophets.

### **How it applies to us today**

† We don't chase signs or physical blessings, we rest in Christ as our complete provision.

† Our life isn't sustained by outward things but by Him alone.

† Belief isn't a work we perform, it's trust in what He's already fulfilled.

† We live in the reality of eternal life now, not waiting for it later.

### **Q & A Appendix:**

**Q:** What was the crowd really seeking

**A:** They were seeking physical provision, not spiritual truth (John 6:26)

**Q:** What is the true bread from heaven

**A:** Jesus Himself, who gives life to the world (John 6:33-35)

**Q:** What is the work of God

**A:** To believe in the One He sent (John 6:29)

**Q:** What does it mean to never hunger or thirst

**A:** It means complete satisfaction in Christ (John 6:35)

**Q:** When is the last day

**A:** It refers to the end of the old covenant age fulfilled in that generation (John 6:39-40)

# † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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## Source Index

† John 6:1-40

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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