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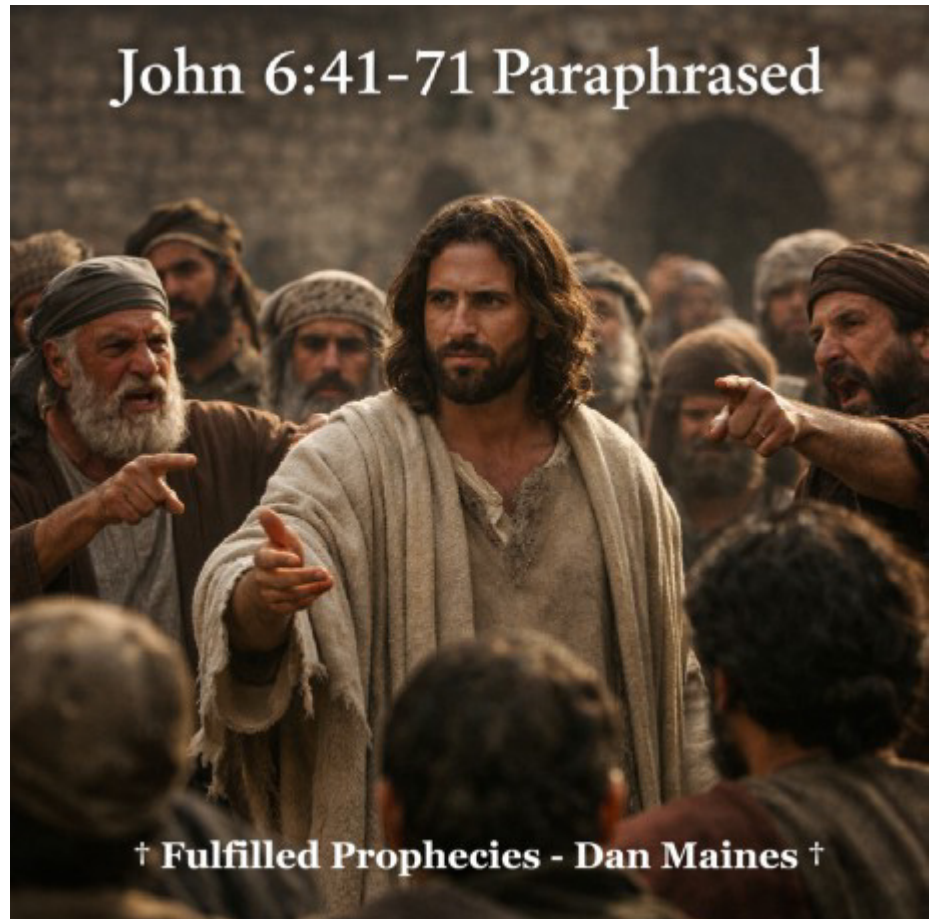
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## John 6:41-71 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## John 6:41-71 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† This section shows the shift from physical thinking to spiritual understanding, the crowd begins to resist because they can't accept what Jesus is saying about Himself

† Their problem isn't lack of evidence, it's their refusal to believe what was plainly revealed

† This sets the stage for many turning away, proving that not all who followed Him were truly committed

## John 6:41

The Jews began complaining about Him because He said He came down from heaven

† They were focused on His earthly origin, ignoring His divine identity (John 1:14)

† This shows how natural thinking blocks spiritual truth (1 Corinthians 2:14)

† Their murmuring echoes Israel in the wilderness, rejecting what God provided (Exodus 16:2)

### **John 6:42**

They said, isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know, how can He now say He came down from heaven

† They judged Him by appearance instead of revelation (John 7:24)

† Familiarity caused unbelief, they thought they knew Him, but didn't

† This is the same rejection pattern seen in Nazareth (Mark 6:3)

### **John 6:43**

Jesus answered and said to them, stop complaining among yourselves

† He addresses the heart issue, not just their words

† Complaining reveals resistance to truth

† He's calling them to listen instead of argue

### **John 6:44**

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day

† Coming to Christ is initiated by God, not human effort (John 6:65)

† The drawing is through truth and revelation, not force (John 12:32)

† The last day here points to the end of the Old Covenant age,

fulfilled in that generation (Matthew 24:34)

### **John 6:45**

It is written in the prophets, and they shall all be taught of God, everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me

† He quotes Isaiah 54:13, showing fulfillment happening in their time

† True hearing leads to coming to Christ

† This exposes those who hear outwardly but don't receive inwardly

### **John 6:46**

Not that anyone has seen the Father, except the One who is from God, He has seen the Father

† Jesus alone reveals the Father fully (John 1:18)

† He speaks with authority because He has seen Him

† This establishes His divine authority over their traditions

### **John 6:47**

Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who believes has eternal life

† Eternal life is present, not future (John 5:24)

† It's received through belief, not works

† This contradicts their expectation of a future-only reward

### **John 6:48**

I am the bread of life

† He identifies Himself as the source of life

† This is a direct claim of necessity, not optional belief

† Life isn't found in the law, but in Him

### **John 6:49**

Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died

† Physical provision didn't give lasting life

† The Old Covenant system couldn't produce eternal life (Hebrews 10:1)

† This exposes the limitation of what they trusted in

### **John 6:50**

This is the bread that comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die

† He's contrasting Himself with manna

† Spiritual life replaces temporary physical provision

† Not dying refers to spiritual death being removed

### **John 6:51**

I am the living bread that came down out of heaven, if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever, and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh

† Eating represents believing and receiving Him

† His flesh points to His sacrificial death

† This includes the world, not just Israel (John 3:16)

### **John 6:52**

Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, how can this man give us His flesh to eat

† They take Him literally and miss the meaning

† This shows their inability to understand spiritual language

† Arguments replace faith when truth is rejected

### **John 6:53**

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 yourselves

† He's intensifying the point, not softening it

† This is about total participation in Him

† Without Him, there is no life at all

### **John 6:54**

The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day

† Eternal life is tied directly to Him

† Again, resurrection is tied to that generation's fulfillment

† This is covenant transition language

### **John 6:55**

For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink

† He replaces temple sacrifices with Himself

† True sustenance is spiritual, not ritual

† This points forward to the cross

### **John 6:56**

The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in him

† This describes union with Christ

† It's relational, not ceremonial

† This is the new covenant reality

### **John 6:57**

As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so the one who eats Me, he also will live because of Me

† Life flows from the Father through the Son

† Believers share in that life

† This is dependency, not independence

### **John 6:58**

This is the bread that came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died, the one who eats this bread will live forever

† He repeats the contrast for emphasis

† Old provision failed, He doesn't

† This is permanent life

### **John 6:59**

These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum

† This was public teaching, not hidden

† They had full access to hear truth

† Their rejection wasn't due to lack of clarity

### **John 6:60**

Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, this is a difficult statement, who can listen to it

† Difficulty doesn't excuse unbelief

† Many followed outwardly but didn't truly believe

† Truth separates real followers from superficial ones

### **John 6:61**

But Jesus, aware that His disciples were complaining about this, said to them, does this cause you to stumble

† He confronts their offense directly

† Truth often causes stumbling when hearts aren't ready

† He doesn't adjust the message

### **John 6:62**

What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before

† He's pointing to His divine origin again

† If they can't accept this, they'll reject more

† This challenges their limited view

### **John 6:63**

It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing, the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life

† This clarifies everything He said

† It's spiritual truth, not literal eating

† Life comes through His words

### **John 6:64**

But there are some of you who do not believe, for Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray Him

† He knew their hearts all along

† Following physically doesn't equal believing

† Judas is included here

### **John 6:65**

And He was saying, for this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father

† Again, belief is granted through revelation

† This isn't random, it's based on hearing truth

† This exposes hardened hearts

### **John 6:66**

As a result of this many of His disciples left, and were not walking with Him anymore

† Many walk away when truth becomes costly

† This proves they weren't truly committed

† Numbers don't equal faithfulness

### **John 6:67**

So Jesus said to the twelve, you do not want to leave also, do you

† He gives them the choice

† True discipleship is voluntary

† He doesn't beg them to stay

### **John 6:68**

Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go, You have words of eternal life

† Peter recognizes the source of life

† There is nowhere else to go

† This is true faith speaking

### **John 6:69**

We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God

† Belief leads to knowing

† This is a clear confession of who He is

† This separates them from the crowd

### **John 6:70**

Jesus answered them, did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil

† Selection doesn't guarantee faithfulness

† Judas was among them

† This shows outward position means nothing without true belief

### **John 6:71**

Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him

† Judas represents false discipleship

† Being close to truth doesn't mean receiving it

† This ends with a warning about hidden unbelief

### **Historical References**

† Josephus records how many in Israel resisted prophetic truth and followed only what suited them

† Irenaeus wrote that many heard Christ physically but rejected Him spiritually

† Eusebius noted that true believers remained while others fell away when teachings became difficult

† Clement of Alexandria taught that spiritual understanding separates true disciples from outward followers

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

† We can't follow Christ only when it's easy, truth must be accepted fully

† It's not about knowing about Him, it's about believing Him

† Many still reject spiritual truth because they think in physical terms

† We must stay grounded in His words, because they are life

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

**Q:** Why did the people reject Jesus here

**A:** Because they judged Him by the flesh and refused spiritual truth (John 6:42-43)

**Q:** What does eating His flesh mean

**A:** It means believing and fully receiving Him, not literal eating (John 6:63)

**Q:** Why did many disciples leave

**A:** Because the teaching challenged their understanding and they didn't truly believe (John 6:60-66)

**Q:** What is the last day referring to

**A:** The end of the Old Covenant age in that generation (Matthew 24:34)

**Q:** What separates true disciples from false ones

**A:** True disciples believe and remain, false ones walk away when challenged (John 6:68-69)

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

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## **Source Index**

† John 6

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

John 6:1-40 Paraphrased

<https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1196.html>

John 6:41-71 Paraphrased

<https://fulfilledprophecies.com/topics/1197.html>

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