

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

John 6: 35, 41-51

35. And Jesus said unto them, If I may continue in the matzo genre which will irritate preachers in generations to come: I am the bread of life, be it white, wholemeal or granary: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst for I shall give pots of tea [1] with each slice.
41. The Jews then murmured exceedingly at Him, because He said, I am the bread which came down from heaven and did not mention sourdough, unleavened, seeded or oats. Which they hankered after.
42. And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know, though not in a Biblical sense? How is it then that He saith, I came down from heaven? More like Nazareth if you ask us. And those that did give gifts at His circumcision did bridle at this rejection of His family and talk amongst themselves about asking for the silverware, nose rings, crafted bowls and little penknives, to be returned unto them that bought them.
43. Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves, not grind your teeth or spit upon the dust. Such muttering doth avail naught and is very rude. Listen to this – but no music, please!
44. No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him, or her, for there is no favouritism in the heavenly kingdom: and I will raise him or her, or even gender non-specific up at the last day when the trumpet shall sound and the end of all things be upon us. And woe betide them that hath bread in the oven on that day. Or buns! And I said no singing!
45. It is written in the prophets somewhere, in Isaiah and Jeremiah I think, (or was it that weird one whose name I can never remember?) And they shall be all taught of God. Every man, woman, those CIS gender and even trans-gender defined, therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father or some commentary or other, cometh unto Me. Yes, me!
46. Not that any man, or woman, or other hath seen the Father, save He which is of God, He hath seen the Father sitting on His throne. And I tell you, it's pretty terrific! And some did snigger and titter, and others did draw images in the dust. Mainly of loaves of bread.
47. And Jesus did raise His voice over the many conversations and recipes that were beginning. Verily, verily, and thrice verily I say unto you, He or she or other that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. Oh yes! So to sum up,
48. I am that bread of life. Wholemeal and wholesome. Yes, eucharistic if you want, but remember I'm being Johannine here.
49. Your fathers did eat plain manna in the wilderness such as is served with curry or tagine dishes, and are dead, though not from food poisoning. Well, at least not many of them. Moses is a bit vague on that point and I haven't had a chance to ask him yet.
50. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. If you want proof you have to use leaven and that's a synoptic thing. Just my little pun. And some did ask about toast and crumpets and muffins, but He commented not upon these varieties. Nor upon bagels which would not come about for several generations.
51. He saith, I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever, for it is good for gluten-free diets, low salt, and various ingredient intolerances, and will keep you regular: and the bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world, but they understood Him not, and many did depart in search of a bakery, for they were super-hungered. And some dreamed of hot crumpets. (Let the reader understand.) And baps. Lots of baps. Big ones, dusted with fine flour.

Notes:

[1] The Apostle Thomas took this saying literally and brought back much tea from his Indian travels, thus introducing the beverage as a post-eucharistic social element.