

~FOOD (1206)

- .. Cereals
- .. Vegetables
- .. Fruits And Nuts
- .. Spices And Honey
- .. Flesh As Food
- .. Fowl Were Also Eaten
- .. Dairy Products And Beverages
- .. Manna
- .. Eating Together
- .. Christian Viewpoint
- .. Spiritual Food

- **Hebrew** and **Greek** terms rendered food have various literal meanings, such as thing eaten, nourishment, bread, and meat, or flesh.
- After creating Adam and Eve, God said; Here I have given to you all vegetation bearing seed which is on the surface of the whole earth and every tree on which there is the fruit of a tree bearing seed. To you let it serve as food.
- He further stated that to all the animal creation he had given, all green vegetation for food. To Adam he also said; From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction, adding a prohibition on one tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and bad.
- And God went on to say; Here I have given to you all vegetation bearing seed which is on the surface of the whole earth and every tree on which there is the fruit of a tree bearing seed. To you let it serve as **food**. (**Genesis 1:29**)
- And to every wild beast of the earth and to every flying creature of the heavens and to everything moving upon the earth in which there is life as a soul I have given all green vegetation for **food**. And it came to be so. (**Genesis 1:30**)
- And Yehowah God also laid this command upon the man; From every tree of the garden you may eat to satisfaction. (**Genesis 2:16**)
- But as for the tree of the knowledge of good and bad you must not eat from it, for in the day you eat from it you will positively

die. (**Genesis 2:17**)

- From that time until the Flood, the Bible gives no indication that man included the flesh of animals in his diet. True, a distinction was made between clean and unclean animals, but this evidently was with regard to animals used for sacrificial purposes.
- Of every clean beast you must take to yourself by sevens, the sire and its mate, and of every beast that is not clean just two, the sire and its mate. (**Genesis 7:2**)
- When Noah was commanded to take the animals into the ark, Yehowah told him; As for you, take for yourself every sort of **food** that is eaten, and you must gather it to yourself, and it must serve as food for you and for them, again seemingly having reference to food from the vegetable kingdom for the human's and the animals taken into the ark.
- And as for you, take for yourself every sort of **food** that is eaten, and you must gather it to yourself, and it must serve as food for you and for them. (**Genesis 6:21**)
- After the Flood, Yehowah allowed man to add flesh to his diet, saying; Every moving animal that is alive may serve as **food** for you. As in the case of green vegetation, I do give it all to you. Only flesh with its soul its blood you must not eat.
- Every moving animal that is alive may serve as **food** for you. As in the case of green vegetation, I do give it all to you. (**Genesis 9:3**)
- Only flesh with its soul, its blood, you must not eat. (**Genesis 9:4**)

.. Cereals

- Cereals constituted the basic **food** of the people of Bible lands, as is evident from the fact that in both **Hebrew** and **Greek** the expression eat a meal literally means, eat bread.
- After that he washed his face and went out and kept control of himself and said; Set on the meal. (**Genesis 43:31**)
- And they proceeded to set it on for him by himself and for them by themselves and for the Egyptians who were eating with him

by themselves, for the Egyptians were not able to eat a meal with the Hebrews, because that is a detestable thing to the Egyptians. (**Genesis 43:32**)

- **Barley and wheat were the chief cereals, other cereals mentioned are millet and spelt, a form of wheat.**
- **Gideon now came, and, look! There was a man relating a dream to his companion, and he went on to say; Here is a dream that I have dreamed. And, look! There was a round cake of barley bread turning over and over into the camp of Midian. Then it came to a tent and struck it so that it fell, and it went turning it upside down, and the tent fell flat. (**Judges 7:13**)**
- **Does he not, when he has smoothed out its surface, then scatter black cumin and sprinkle the cumin, and must he not put in wheat, millet, and barley in the appointed place, and spelt as his boundary? (**Isaiah 28:25**)**
- **And as for you, take for yourself wheat and barley and broad beans and lentils and millet and spelt, and you must put them in one utensil and make them into bread for you, for the number of the days that you are lying upon your side, three hundred and ninety days you will eat it. (**Ezekiel 4:9**)**
- **Here is a little boy that has five barley loaves and two small fishes. But what are these among so many? (**John 6:9**)**
- **Therefore they gathered them together, and they filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, which were left over by those who had eaten. (**John 6:13**)**
- **Besides being used for bread, ordinary flour was made into a sort of porridge. Grain was often eaten roasted, either by taking a bunch of the grain ears together and holding them over a fire or by roasting them in a pan.**
- **And Boaz proceeded to say to her at mealtime; Approach here, and you must eat some of the bread and dip your piece in the vinegar. So she sat down beside the harvesters, and he would hold out roasted grain to her and she would eat, so that she was satisfied and yet had something left over. (**Ruth 2:14**)**
- **Brought beds and basins and potters vessels, and wheat and**

barley and flour and roasted grain and broad beans and lentils and parched grain. ([2 Samuel 17:28](#))

- **It was made into bread, usually with the grain ground coarsely. However, in some of the bread and cakes a finer flour was used.**
- **So Abraham went hurrying to the tent to Sarah and said; Hurry! Get three seah measures of fine flour, knead the dough and make round cakes. ([Genesis 18:6](#))**
- **And unfermented bread and unfermented ring-shaped cakes moistened with oil and unfermented wafers smeared with oil. Out of fine wheat flour you will make them. ([Exodus 29:2](#))**
- **One method of baking was to spread the dough on hot rocks or on a flat surface of rocks on which a fire had been built. Ferment or leaven was often used, while some bread was baked unfermented.**
- **Along with ring-shaped cakes of leavened bread he will present his offering together with the thanksgiving sacrifice of his communion sacrifices. ([Leviticus 7:13](#))**
- **When he looked, why, there at his head was a round cake upon heated stones and a jug of water. And he began to eat and drink, after which he lay down again. ([1 Kings 19:6](#))**
- **Ovens were also employed, in which the lumps of dough were flattened on a stone within. Cakes were sometimes prepared in a pan, on a griddle, or in a deep-fat kettle. The fat used was oil, probably olive oil.**
- **And in case you would present as an offering a grain offering in the way of something baked in the oven, it should be of fine flour, unfermented ring-shaped cakes moistened with oil or unfermented wafers smeared with oil. ([Leviticus 2:4](#))**
- **And if your offering is a grain offering from off the griddle, it should prove to be of fine flour moistened with oil, unfermented. ([Leviticus 2:5](#))**
- **And if your offering is a grain offering out of the deep-fat kettle, it should be made of fine flour with oil. ([Leviticus 2:7](#))**
- **And Mattithiah of the Levites, who was the firstborn of Shallum**

the Korahite, was in the office of trust over the things baked in pans. (**1 Chronicles 9:31**)

See Also BAKE, BAKER

.. Vegetables

- Beans and lentils were included in the diet, being made into a stew such as the lentil stew that Jacob made and for which Esau sold his birthright.
- And Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he went to eating and drinking. Then he got up and went his way. So Esau despised the birthright. (**Genesis 25:34**)
- Sometimes meat or oil was used with the stew. Flour might be made from beans or could be a mixture of grain cereals, beans, and lentils.
- And as for you, take for yourself wheat and barley and broad beans and lentils and millet and spelt, and you must put them in one utensil and make them into bread for you, for the number of the days that you are lying upon your side, three hundred and ninety days you will eat it. (**Ezekiel 4:9**)
- Cucumbers of a variety that is more tasty than the Western variety constituted a refreshing **food**. When water was scarce or bad, these could be eaten to provide a substitute for water.
- Cucumbers were eaten raw, with or without salt, and were sometimes stuffed and cooked. The Israelites looked back with longing for the cucumbers, the watermelons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic that they ate in Egypt.
- And the mixed crowd that was in the midst of them expressed selfish longing, and the sons of Israel too began to weep again and say; Who will give us meat to eat? (**Numbers 11:4**)
- How we remember the fish that we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers and the watermelons and the leeks and the onions and the garlic! (**Numbers 11:5**)
- These **foods** were also produced in Palestine.

- Job mentions marshmallow, the juice of which he describes as tasteless.
- Will tasteless things be eaten without salt, or is there any taste in the slimy juice of marshmallow? ([Job 6:6](#))
- He also speaks of those in destitute circumstances as eating the salt herb and the roots of broom trees.
- They were plucking the salt herb by the bushes, and the root of broom trees was their food. ([Job 30:4](#))
- The Mishnah [[Pesachim 2:6](#)] mentions endive and chicory as the bitter greens used at the Passover.
- And they must eat the flesh on this night. They should eat it roasted with fire and with unfermented cakes along with bitter greens. ([Exodus 12:8](#))

•• Fruits And Nuts

- The olive was an outstanding article of food in Palestine. The tree may take ten years or longer to begin producing good harvests, but its great longevity makes it very fruitful.
- The fruits of the olive tree may have been eaten as today, after being soaked in brine. Olives also provided oil for cooking such items as stews and oiled cakes. The Bible mentions well-oiled dishes.
- And Yehowah of armies will certainly make for all the peoples, in this mountain, a banquet of well-oiled dishes, a banquet of wine kept on the dregs, of well-oiled dishes filled with marrow, of wine kept on the dregs, filtered. ([Isaiah 25:6](#))
- Figs were another important item of diet.
- A land of wheat and barley and vines and figs and pomegranates, a land of oil olives and honey. ([Deuteronomy 8:8](#))
- Once spotted on a tree, early figs were often eaten immediately.
- And the fading flower of its decoration of beauty that is upon the head of the fertile valley must become like the early fig before summer, that, when the seer sees it, while it is yet in his palm, he

swallows it down. (**Isaiah 28:4**)

- Late figs were dried in the sun and pressed in molds, forming cakes of figs.
- At once Abigail hastened and took two hundred loaves of bread and two large jars of wine and five sheep dressed and five seah measures of roasted grain and a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs and put them upon the asses. (**1 Samuel 25:18**)
- And also those near to them, as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing **food** upon asses and upon camels and upon mules and upon cattle, eatables of flour, cakes of pressed figs and cakes of raisins and wine and oil and cattle and sheep in great quantity, for there was rejoicing in Israel. (**1 Chronicles 12:40**)
- Used as a poultice, they had healing properties.
- And Isaiah proceeded to say; Let them take a cake of pressed dried figs and rub it in upon the boil, that he may revive. (**Isaiah 38:21**)
- Besides the common fig tree, a tree known as the sycamore, fig-mulberry, also produced edible figs.
- And over the olive groves and the sycamore trees that were in the Shephelah there was Baal-hanan the Gederite, and over the oil supplies there was Joash. (**1 Chronicles 27:28**)
- Then Amos answered and said to Amaziah; I was not a prophet, neither was I the son of a prophet, but I was a herdsman and a nipper of figs of sycamore trees. (**Amos 7:14**)
- Other fruits were the date, the pomegranate, and the apple.
- His head is gold, refined gold. The locks of his hair are date clusters. His black hair is like the raven. (**Song of Solomon 5:11**)
- The vine itself has shown dryness, and even the fig tree has faded away. As for the pomegranate tree, also the palm tree and the apple tree, all the trees of the field, they have dried up, for exultation has gone ashamed away from the sons of mankind.

(Joel 1:12)

- **Is there as yet the seed in the grain pit? And as yet, the vine and the fig tree and the pomegranate tree and the olive tree, it has not borne, has it? From this day I shall bestow blessing. (Haggai 2:19)**

See Also APPLE

- **Among the nuts eaten in Palestine, the Bible mentions almonds and pistachio nuts.**
- **So Israel their father said to them; If, then, that is the case, do this. Take the finest products of the land in your receptacles and carry them down to the man as a gift, a little balsam, and a little honey, labdanum and resinous bark, pistachio nuts and almonds. (Genesis 43:11)**
- **And the word of Yehowah continued to occur to me, saying; What are you seeing, Jeremiah? So I said; An offshoot of an almond tree is what I am seeing. (Jeremiah 1:11)**
- **Grapes are one of the most abundant **foods** in Palestine. When the Israelites spied out the land of Canaan they brought back a great cluster of grapes, carried on a bar between two men.**
- **When they came to the torrent valley of Eshcol, they then proceeded to cut down from there a shoot with one cluster of grapes. And they went carrying it with a bar on two of the men, and also some of the pomegranates and some of the figs. (Numbers 13:23)**
- **Grapes were eaten in their natural state and also dried.**
- **He should keep away from wine and intoxicating liquor. He should not drink the vinegar of wine or the vinegar of intoxicating liquor, nor drink any liquid made from grapes, nor eat grapes either fresh or dried. (Numbers 6:3)**
- **Pressed into cakes.**
- **At once Abigail hastened and took two hundred loaves of bread and two large jars of wine and five sheep dressed and five seah measures of roasted grain and a hundred cakes of raisins and**

two hundred cakes of pressed figs and put them upon the asses.
([1 Samuel 25:18](#))

- And also those near to them, as far as Issachar and Zebulun and Naphtali, were bringing **food** upon asses and upon camels and upon mules and upon cattle, eatables of flour, cakes of pressed figs and cakes of raisins and wine and oil and cattle and sheep in great quantity, for there was rejoicing in Israel. ([1 Chronicles 12:40](#))
- As today, undoubtedly the young leaves were eaten as a green vegetable, the older leaves were fed to sheep and goats.
- The pods of the carob tree were usually fed to animals, although they may have been used for human consumption in time of need. The hungry prodigal son in Jesus illustration expressed the desire to feed on them.
- And he used to desire to be filled with the carob pods which the swine were eating, and no one would give him anything. ([Luke 15:16](#))

See Also CAROB POD

.. Spices And Honey

- Spices prominently used for seasoning were mint, dill, cumin, rue, and mustard leaves.
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you give the tenth of the mint and the dill and the cumin, but you have disregarded the weightier matters of the Law, namely, justice and mercy and faithfulness. These things it was binding to do, yet not to disregard the other things. ([Matthew 23:23](#))
- Another illustration he set before them, saying; The kingdom of the heavens is like a mustard grain, which a man took and planted in his field. ([Matthew 13:31](#))
- But woe to you Pharisees, because you give the tenth of the mint and the rue and of every other vegetable, but you pass by the justice and the love of God! These things you were under obligation to do, but those other things not to omit. ([Luke 11:42](#))

- Salt was the chief article of seasoning, also having preservative properties. Thus, a covenant of salt was a sure covenant, not to be violated.
- All the holy contributions, which the sons of Israel will contribute to Yehowah, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you, as an allowance to time indefinite. It is a covenant of salt to time indefinite before Yehowah for you and your offspring with you. ([Numbers 18:19](#))
- Is it not for you to know that Yehowah the God of Israel himself gave a kingdom to David over Israel to time indefinite, to him and to his sons, by a covenant of salt? ([2 Chronicles 13:5](#))
- Additionally, the [Mishnah \[Shabbat 6:5\]](#) mentions pepper. The caper berry was used as an appetizer. ([Ecclesiastes 12:5](#))
- Honey was considered a choice **food** that brightened the eyes with energy.
- As for Jonathan, he had not been listening when his father put the people under an oath, so he stretched out the tip of the rod that was in his hand and dipped it into the honeycomb and drew his hand back to his mouth, and his eyes began to beam. ([1 Samuel 14:27](#))
- At this one of the people answered and said; Your father solemnly put the people under oath, saying; Cursed is the man that eats bread today! And the people began to get tired. ([1 Samuel 14:28](#))
- However, Jonathan said; My father has brought ostracism upon the land. See, please, how my eyes have beamed because I tasted this little bit of honey. ([1 Samuel 14:29](#))
- They are more to be desired than gold, yes, than much refined gold, and sweeter than honey and the flowing honey of the combs. ([Psalms 19:10](#))
- Pleasant sayings are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and a healing to the bones. ([Proverbs 16:24](#))
- The manna tasted like flat cakes with honey.

- And the house of Israel began to call its name manna. And it was white like coriander seed, and its taste was like that of flat cakes with honey. (**Exodus 16:31**)
- John the Baptizer ate honey along with insect locusts.
- But this very John had his clothing of camels hair and a leather girdle around his loins, his **food** too was insect locusts and wild honey. (**Matthew 3:4**)

•• Flesh As Food

- God told Noah after the Flood that, along with vegetation, he could use for **food** every moving animal that is alive.
- Every moving animal that is alive may serve as **food** for you. As in the case of green vegetation, I do give it all to you. (**Genesis 9:3**)
- Only flesh with its soul, its blood, you must not eat. (**Genesis 9:4**)
- But under the Law, the Israelites were restricted to eating what were defined as clean animals. These are listed in (**Leviticus Chapter 11**) and (**Deuteronomy Chapter 14**).
- The common people did not ordinarily eat much meat. But occasionally a goat or a lamb would be slaughtered for a communion sacrifice or in honor of a guest.
- And if his offering is from the flock for a communion sacrifice to Yehowah, a male or a female, a sound one is what he will present. (**Leviticus 3:6**)
- If he is presenting a young ram as his offering, then he must present it before Yehowah. (**Leviticus 3:7**)
- And if his offering is a goat, then he must present it before Yehowah. (**Leviticus 3:12**)
- After a while a visitor came to the rich man, but he spared taking some from his own sheep and his own cattle to get such ready for the traveler that had come in to him. So he took the female lamb of the man of little means and got it ready for the man that had come in to him. (**2 Samuel 12:4**)

- In reply he said to his father; Here it is so many years I have slaved for you and never once did I transgress your commandment, and yet to me you never once gave a kid for me to enjoy myself with my friends. ([Luke 15:29](#))
- But as soon as this your son who ate up your means of living with harlots arrived, you slaughtered the fattened young bull for him. ([Luke 15:30](#))
- Among the more well-to-do, beef cattle were slaughtered.
- Next Abraham ran to the herd and proceeded to get a tender and good young bull and to give it to the attendant, and he went hurrying to get it ready. ([Genesis 18:7](#))
- Better is a dish of vegetables where there is love than a manger-fed bull and hatred along with it. ([Proverbs 15:17](#))
- And bring the fattened young bull, slaughter it and let us eat and enjoy ourselves. ([Luke 15:23](#))
- Some of the game animals, such as the stag, gazelle, roebuck, wild goat, antelope, wild bull, and chamois, were eaten, and the meat was roasted or boiled.
- And Isaac had love for Esau, because it meant game in his mouth, whereas Rebekah was a lover of Jacob. ([Genesis 25:28](#))
- Only whenever your soul craves it you may slaughter, and you must eat meat according to the blessing of Yehowah your God that he has given you, inside all your gates. The unclean one and the clean one may eat it, like the gazelle and like the stag. ([Deuteronomy 12:15](#))
- This is the sort of beast that you may eat, the bull, the sheep and the goat. ([Deuteronomy 14:4](#))
- The stag and gazelle and roebuck and wild goat and antelope and wild sheep and chamois. ([Deuteronomy 14:5](#))
- The eating of blood was strictly forbidden, as was the eating of fat. ([Leviticus 7:25-27](#))

.. Fowl Were Also Eaten

- The Israelites were miraculously furnished with quail in the wilderness.
- And a wind burst forth from Yehowah and began driving quails from the sea and letting them fall above the camp about a day's journey this way and about a day's journey that way, all around the camp, and about two cubits above the surface of the earth. (**Numbers 11:31**)
- Then the people got up all that day and all night and all the next day and kept gathering the quail. The one collecting least gathered ten homers, and they kept spreading them extensively all around the camp for themselves. (**Numbers 11:32**)
- The meat was yet between their teeth, before it could be chewed, when Yehowah's anger blazed against the people, and Yehowah began striking at the people with a very great slaughter. (**Numbers 11:33**)
- Pigeons, turtledoves, partridge, and sparrows were among the clean fowl.
- And now do not let my blood fall to the earth before the face of Yehowah, for the king of Israel has gone out to look for a single flea, just as one chases a partridge upon the mountains. (**1 Samuel 26:20**)
- Do not two sparrows sell for a coin of small value? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Fathers knowledge. (**Matthew 10:29**)
- Additionally, eggs were an item of **food**.
- And just as if a nest, my hand will reach the resources of the peoples, and just as when one gathers eggs that have been left, I myself will gather up even all the earth, and there will certainly be no one fluttering his wings or opening his mouth or chirping. (**Isaiah 10:14**)
- Indeed, which father is there among you who, if his son asks for a fish, will perhaps hand him a serpent instead of a fish? (**Luke 11:11**)

- Or if he also asks for an egg, will hand him a scorpion? ([Luke 11:12](#))
- Among the edible insects was the locust, which, with honey, formed the **food** of John the Baptizer.
- But this very John had his clothing of camels hair and a leather girdle around his loins, his **food** too was insect locusts and wild honey. ([Matthew 3:4](#))
- Today locusts are eaten by some Arabs. After having the head, legs, and wings removed, the locusts are dropped into meal and fried in oil or butter.
- Fish were obtainable from the Mediterranean and also from the Sea of Galilee. Several of the apostles of Jesus Christ were fishermen, and Jesus, on at least one occasion, after his resurrection, prepared some fish over a charcoal fire for his disciples.
- However, when they disembarked onto land they beheld lying there a charcoal fire and fish lying upon it and bread. ([John 21:9](#))
- Fish were also dried, providing convenient **food** for travelers. The fish of Jesus two miracles of feeding multitudes were probably dried fish.
- At this Jesus said to them; How many loaves have you? They said; Seven, and a few little fishes. ([Matthew 15:34](#))
- He said to them; How many loaves have you? Go see! After ascertaining it, they said; Five, besides two fishes. ([Mark 6:38](#))
- One of the gates of Jerusalem was named the Fish Gate, probably indicating that there was a fish market at or near it.
- And the Fish Gate was what the sons of Hassenaah built, they themselves timbered it and then set up its doors, its bolts and its bars. ([Nehemiah 3:3](#))
- In the days of Nehemiah, the Tyrians carried on a fish trade in Jerusalem.
- And the Tyrians themselves dwelt in the city, bringing in fish and

every sort of merchandise and making sales on the Sabbath to the sons of Judah and in Jerusalem. (**Nehemiah 13:16**)

· Dairy Products And Beverages

- Also important as **food** were milk and milk products, using milk of cows, goats, or sheep.
- And these ten portions of milk you should bring to the chief of the thousand, also, you should look after your own brothers as regards their welfare, and a token from them you should take. (**1 Samuel 17:18**)
- Milk was normally kept in skin bottles.
- In time he said to her; Give me, please, a little water to drink, for I am thirsty. Accordingly she opened a skin bottle of milk and gave him a drink, after which she covered him. (**Judges 4:19**)
- It would sour quickly. The **Hebrew** word *chem- 'ah'*, translated butter, can also mean curdled milk. Cheese was also a well-known item.
- In fact, the Tyropoeon or Cheesemaker's Valley ran along the West side of the very early city of Jerusalem.
- Water he asked, milk she gave. In the large banquet bowl of majestic ones she presented curdled milk. (**Judges 5:25**)
- And honey and butter and sheep and curds of cattle they brought forward for David and the people that were with him to eat, for they said; The people are hungry and tired and thirsty in the wilderness. (**2 Samuel 17:29**)
- Did you not proceed to pour me out as milk itself and like cheese to curdle me? (**Job 10:10**)

See Also CHEESE

- The making of wine was one of the principal uses of the grape. Wine was sometimes spiced and also mixed.
- It has organized its meat slaughtering, it has mixed its wine, more than that, it has set in order its table. (**Proverbs 9:2**)

- **Come, feed yourselves with my bread and share in drinking the wine that I have mixed. ([Proverbs 9:5](#))**
- **I would lead you, I would bring you into the house of my mother, who used to teach me. I would give you a drink of spiced wine, the fresh juice of pomegranates. ([Song of Solomon 8:2](#))**
- **Woe to those who are mighty in drinking wine, and to the men with vital energy for mixing intoxicating liquor. ([Isaiah 5:22](#))**
- **The grape gathering took place in the fall. In a warm climate the juice would not long be free from ferment. Several months intervened between grape harvest and Passover time.**
- **At Passover it became the custom for family groups to drink several cups of wine, which, by that time, would be fermented. Hence, in celebrating the Passover of [33 C.E.](#), Jesus drank real red wine, some of which he offered to his disciples in introducing the Lord's Evening Meal.**
- **And taking a cup, he offered thanks and gave it to them, and they all drank out of it. ([Mark 14:23](#))**
- **And he said to them; This means my blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out in behalf of many. ([Mark 14:24](#))**
- **Truly I say to you, I shall by no means drink anymore of the product of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God. ([Mark 14:25](#))**
- **It was also fermented wine that Jesus produced at a wedding feast.**
- **When, now, the director of the feast tasted the water that had been turned into wine but did not know what its source was, although those ministering who had drawn out the water knew, the director of the feast called the bridegroom ([John 2:9](#))**
- **And said to him; Every other man puts out the fine wine first, and when people are intoxicated, the inferior. You have reserved the fine wine until now. ([John 2:10](#))**
- **Wine was used for medicinal purposes as well.**

- Do not drink water any longer, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent cases of sickness. (**1 Timothy 5:23**)
- Vinegar derived from grape wine, pure or mixed with spices or fruit juices, was also used.
- He should keep away from wine and intoxicating liquor. He should not drink the vinegar of wine or the vinegar of intoxicating liquor, nor drink any liquid made from grapes, nor eat grapes either fresh or dried. (**Numbers 6:3**)
- And Boaz proceeded to say to her at mealtime; Approach here, and you must eat some of the bread and dip your piece in the vinegar. So she sat down beside the harvesters, and he would hold out roasted grain to her and she would eat, so that she was satisfied and yet had something left over. (**Ruth 2:14**)
- Another drink was wheat beer, and a refreshing drink was made from pomegranate juice.
- I would lead you, I would bring you into the house of my mother, who used to teach me. I would give you a drink of spiced wine, the fresh juice of pomegranates. (**Song of Solomon 8:2**)
- Your silver itself has become scummy dross. Your wheat beer is diluted with water. (**Isaiah 1:22**)
- Their wheat beer being gone, they have positively treated woman as a harlot. Her shielders have positively loved dishonor. (**Hosea 4:18**)

•• Manna

- Manna was the basic **food** for the Israelites in the wilderness. It is described at;
- Incidentally, the manna was like coriander seed, and its look was like the look of bdellium gum. (**Numbers 11:7**)
- The people spread out and picked it up and ground it in hand mills or pounded it in a mortar, and they boiled it in cooking pots or made it into round cakes, and its taste proved to be like the

taste of an oiled sweet cake. (**Numbers 11:8**)

- As being like coriander seed, having the appearance of bdellium gum. It was ground in hand mills or pounded in a mortar and boiled or made into cakes tasting like an oiled sweet cake. It is spoken of as the very bread of powerful ones.
- And he kept raining upon them manna to eat, and the grain of heaven he gave to them. (**Psalms 78:24**)
- Men ate the very bread of powerful ones, provisions he sent them to satisfaction. (**Psalms 78:25**)

See Also MANNA

.. Eating Together

- In Bible times the eating of **food** together indicated a bond of fellowship.
- After that Jacob sacrificed a sacrifice in the mountain and invited his brothers to eat bread. Accordingly they ate bread and passed the night in the mountain. (**Genesis 31:54**)
- And David went on to say to him; Do not be afraid, for without fail I shall exercise loving-kindness toward you for the sake of Jonathan your father, and I must return to you all the field of Saul your grandfather, and you yourself will eat bread at my table constantly. (**2 Samuel 9:7**)
- And you must cultivate the ground for him, you and your sons and your servants, and you must do the gathering in, and it must serve as **food** for those belonging to the grandson of your master, and they must eat, but Mephibosheth himself, the grandson of your master, will eat bread at my table constantly. Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants. (**2 Samuel 9:10**)
- So Ziba said to the king; In accord with all that my lord the king commands for his servant is the way that your servant will do, but Mephibosheth is eating at my table like one of the sons of the king. (**2 Samuel 9:11**)
- And Mephibosheth himself was dwelling in Jerusalem, for it was constantly at the table of the king that he was eating, and he was

lame in both of his feet. (**2 Samuel 9:13**)

- To refuse to eat **food** with someone was an indication of anger or other contrary feeling or attitude.
- Immediately Jonathan rose up from the table in the heat of anger, and he did not eat bread on the second day after the new moon, for he had been hurt respecting David, because his own father had humiliated him. (**1 Samuel 20:34**)
- So when Peter came up to Jerusalem, the supporters of circumcision began to contend with him. (**Acts of Apostles 11:2**)
- Saying he had gone into the house of men that were not circumcised and had eaten with them. (**Acts of Apostles 11:3**)
- However, when Cephas came to Antioch, I resisted him face to face, because he stood condemned. (**Galatians 2:11**)
- For before the arrival of certain men from James, he used to eat with people of the nations, but when they arrived, he went withdrawing and separating himself, in fear of those of the circumcised class. (**Galatians 2:12**)
- **Food** was often used as a gift, to gain or to ensure the goodwill of another, since the acceptance of a gift was considered to obligate the receiver to observe peaceful relations.
- He now said; What do you mean by all this camp of travelers that I have met? To this he said; In order to find favor in the eyes of my lord. (**Genesis 33:8**)
- Then Esau said; I have a great many, my brother. Let continue yours what is yours. (**Genesis 33:9**)
- However, Jacob said; No, please. If, now, I have found favor in your eyes, then you must take my gift at my hand, because in harmony with its purpose I have seen your face as though seeing God's face in that you received me with pleasure. (**Genesis 33:10**)
- Take, please, the gift conveying my blessing which was brought to you, because God has favored me and because I have everything. And he continued to urge him, so that he took it.

(Genesis 33:11)

- **Later on he said; Let us pull out and go, and let me go in advance of you. (Genesis 33:12)**
- **But he said to him; My lord is aware that the children are delicate and sheep and cattle that are giving suck are in my charge, and should they drive them too quickly for one day, then the whole flock will certainly die. (Genesis 33:13)**
- **Let my lord, please, pass on ahead of his servant, but may I myself continue the journey at my leisure according to the pace of the livestock that is before me and according to the pace of the children until I shall come to my lord at Seir. (Genesis 33:14)**
- **When Esau said; Let me, please, put at your disposal some of the people who are with me. To this he said; Why this? Let me find favor in the eyes of my lord. (Genesis 33:15)**
- **So on that day Esau turned back on his way to Seir. (Genesis 33:16)**
- **But he said to him; Look, please! There is a man of God in this city, and the man is held in honor. All that he says comes true without fail. Let us go there now. Perhaps he can tell us our way that we must go. (1 Samuel 9:6)**
- **At this Saul said to his attendant; And if we should go, what shall we bring to the man? Because the bread itself has disappeared from our receptacles, and, as a gift, there is nothing to bring to the man of the true God. What is there with us? (1 Samuel 9:7)**
- **So the attendant answered Saul once more and said; Look! There is a quarter of a shekel of silver found in my hand, and I shall have to give it to the man of the true God, and he will have to tell us our way. (1 Samuel 9:8)**
- **At once Abigail hastened and took two hundred loaves of bread and two large jars of wine and five sheep dressed and five seah measures of roasted grain and a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs and put them upon the asses. (1 Samuel 25:18)**

- Then she said to her young men; Pass on ahead of me. Look! I am coming after you. But to her husband Nabal she told nothing. **(1 Samuel 25:19)**
- At that particular time Abijah the son of Jeroboam fell sick. **(1 Kings 14:1)**
- So Jeroboam said to his wife; Rise up, please, and you must disguise yourself that they may not know that you are the wife of Jeroboam, and you must go to Shiloh. Look! There is where Ahijah the prophet is. He is the one that spoke with reference to me as to becoming king over this people. **(1 Kings 14:2)**
- And you must take in your hand ten loaves of bread and sprinkled cakes and a flask of honey, and you must come in to him. He it is that will certainly tell you what is going to happen to the boy. **(1 Kings 14:3)**

See Also MEAL

.. Christian Viewpoint

- Christians are not under the restriction of the Law as to clean and unclean **foods**. They are required to abstain from blood and things that are strangled, that is, things from which the blood has not properly been drained.
- Hence my decision is not to trouble those from the nations who are turning to God. **(Acts of Apostles 15:19)**
- But to write them to abstain from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood. **(Acts of Apostles 15:20)**
- For the Holy Spirit and we ourselves have favored adding no further burden to you, except these necessary things. **(Acts of Apostles 15:28)**
- To keep abstaining from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication. If you carefully keep yourselves from these things, you will prosper. Good health to you! **(Acts of Apostles 15:29)**

- But aside from this Bible injunction, they are not to make the eating or the abstaining from certain kinds of **food** an issue or try to govern another person's conscience by their own conscience as regards the eating of food.
- They are warned, however, against eating food as an offering to idols and against stumbling another person by insisting on exercising their Christian freedom in the matter of eating food. (1 Corinthians 8)
- All things are lawful, but not all things are advantageous. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. (1 Corinthians 10:23)
- Let each one keep seeking, not his own advantage, but that of the other person. (1 Corinthians 10:24)
- Everything that is sold in a meat market keep eating, making no inquiry on account of your conscience. (1 Corinthians 10:25)
- For, to Yehowah belong the earth and that which fills it. (1 Corinthians 10:26)
- If anyone of the unbelievers invites you and you wish to go, proceed to eat everything that is set before you, making no inquiry on account of your conscience. (1 Corinthians 10:27)
- But if anyone should say to you; This is something offered in sacrifice, do not eat on account of the one that disclosed it and on account of conscience. (1 Corinthians 10:28)
- Conscience, I say, not your own, but that of the other person. For why should it be that my freedom is judged by another person's conscience? (1 Corinthians 10:29)
- If I am partaking with thanks, why am I to be spoken of abusively over that for which I give thanks? (1 Corinthians 10:30)
- Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, do all things for God's glory. (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- Keep from becoming causes for stumbling to Jews as well as Greeks and to the congregation of God. (1 Corinthians 10:32)

- Even as I am pleasing all people in all things, not seeking my own advantage but that of the many, in order, that they might get saved. (**1 Corinthians 10:33**)
- Christians should not put the matter of **food** or its handling ahead of the Kingdom and its spiritual interests.
- For the kingdom of God does not mean eating and drinking, but means righteousness and peace and joy with Holy Spirit. (**Romans 14:17**)
- Do not be carried away with various and strange teachings. For it is fine for the heart to be given firmness by undeserved kindness, not by eatables, by which those who occupy themselves with them have not been benefited. (**Hebrews 13:9**)

·· Spiritual Food

- Jesus delighted to do the will of his Father and spoke of it as **food** to him.
- But he said to them; I have **food** to eat of which you do not know. (**John 4:32**)
- Jesus said to them; My **food** is for me to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work. (**John 4:34**)
- He foretold that he would appoint, the faithful and discreet slave, to give spiritual **food** at the proper time to his disciples.
- On this account you too prove yourselves ready, because at an hour that you do not think to be it, the Son of man is coming. (**Matthew 24:44**)
- Who really is the faithful and discreet slave whom his master appointed over his domestics, to give them their **food** at the proper time? (**Matthew 24:45**)
- Happy is that slave if his master on arriving finds him doing so. (**Matthew 24:46**)
- Truly I say to you, he will appoint him over all his belongings. (**Matthew 24:47**)

- **Just as Moses had told the Israelites; Not by bread alone does man live but by every expression of Yehowah's mouth does man live.**
- **So he humbled you and let you go hungry and fed you with the manna, which neither you had known nor your fathers had known, in order to make you know that not by bread alone does man live but by every expression of Yehowah's mouth does man live. (Deuteronomy 8:3)**
- **Jesus encouraged his followers to seek, not the material **food**, but the food that remains for life everlasting.**
- **Jesus answered them and said; Most truly I say to you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate from the loaves and were satisfied. (John 6:26)**
- **Work, not for the **food** that perishes, but for the food that remains for life everlasting, which the Son of man will give you, for upon this one the Father, even God, has put his seal of approval. (John 6:27)**
- **Although the fig tree itself may not blossom, and there may be no yield on the vines, the work of the olive tree may actually turn out a failure, and the terraces themselves may actually produce no food, the flock may actually be severed from the pen, and there may be no herd in the enclosures. (Habakkuk 3:17)**
- **Yet, as for me, I will exult in Yehowah himself. I will be joyful in the God of my salvation. (Habakkuk 3:18)**
- **He said not to be anxious about **food** and drink, for the soul is worth more than **food**.**
- **On this account I say to you; Stop being anxious about your souls as to what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your bodies as to what you will wear. Does not the soul mean more than **food** and the body than clothing? (Matthew 6:25)**
- **Then he said to his disciples; On this account I say to you, quit being anxious about your souls as to what you will eat or about your bodies as to what you will wear. (Luke 12:22)**
- **For the soul is worth more than **food** and the body than clothing. (Luke 12:23)**

See Also FAITHFUL AND DISCREET SLAVE

- The apostle Paul spoke of the elementary things of Christian doctrine as being milk and the deeper knowledge as being solid **food**.
- For, indeed, although you ought to be teachers in view of the time, you again need someone to teach you from the beginning the elementary things of the sacred pronouncements of God, and you have become such as need milk, not solid **food**. (**Hebrews 5:12**)
- For everyone that partakes of milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. (**Hebrews 5:13**)
- But solid **food** belongs to mature people, to those who through use have their perceptive powers trained to distinguish both right and wrong. (**Hebrews 5:14**)
- For this reason, now that we have left the primary doctrine about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying a foundation again, namely, repentance from dead works, and faith toward God. (**Hebrews 6:1**)
- The teaching on baptisms and the laying on of the hands, the resurrection of the dead and everlasting judgment. (**Hebrews 6:2**)
- And so, brothers, I was not able to speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to fleshly men, as to babes in Christ. (**1 Corinthians 3:1**)
- I fed you milk, not something to eat, for you were not yet strong enough. In fact, neither are you strong enough now. (**1 Corinthians 3:2**)
- For you are yet fleshly. For whereas there are jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly and are you not walking as men do? (**1 Corinthians 3:3**)
- Peter, too, spoke of nourishing spiritual growth with unadulterated milk belonging to the word.
- And, as newborn infants, form a longing for the unadulterated

milk belonging to the word, that through it you may grow to salvation. (**1 Peter 2:2**)

- **Jesus called himself the bread of life, superior to the manna provided in the wilderness, and he pointed out that he had a supply that would prevent the eater from ever getting hungry.**
- **Hence Jesus said to them; Most truly I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but my Father does give you the true bread from heaven. (**John 6:32**)**
- **For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. (**John 6:33**)**
- **Therefore they said to him; Lord, always give us this bread. (**John 6:34**)**
- **Jesus said to them; I am the bread of life. He that comes to me will not get hungry at all, and he that exercises faith in me will never get thirsty at all. (**John 6:35**)**
- **He shocked some of his followers who lacked spiritual-mindedness when he likened his flesh and blood to **food** and drink, upon which they could feed by faith in his ransom sacrifice, for everlasting life.**
- **He that feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has everlasting life, and I shall resurrect him at the last day. (**John 6:54**)**
- **For my flesh is true **food**, and my blood is true drink. (**John 6:55**)**
- **He that feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in union with me, and I in union with him. (**John 6:56**)**
- **Just as the living Father sent me forth and I live because of the Father, he also that feeds on me, even that one will live because of me. (**John 6:57**)**
- **This is the bread that came down from heaven. It is not as when your forefathers ate and yet died. He that feeds on this bread will live forever. (**John 6:58**)**
- **These things he said as he was teaching in public assembly at Capernaum. (**John 6:59**)**

- Therefore many of his disciples, when they heard this, said; This speech is shocking, who can listen to it? ([John 6:60](#))
- Yehowah promises a time when he will provide an abundance of both spiritual and material **food** for his faithful people earth wide, with no famine to threaten them.
- There will come to be plenty of grain on the earth, on the top of the mountains there will be an overflow. His fruit will be as in Lebanon, and those who are from the city will blossom like the vegetation of the earth. ([Psalms 72:16](#))
- Also, Yehowah, for his part, will give what is good, and our own land will give its yield. ([Psalms 85:12](#))
- And Yehowah of armies will certainly make for all the peoples, in this mountain, a banquet of well-oiled dishes, a banquet of wine kept on the dregs, of well-oiled dishes filled with marrow, of wine kept on the dregs, filtered. ([Isaiah 25:6](#))
- And items of **food** under their individual headings.

See Also COOKING, COOKING UTENSILS

See Also FAMINE