



TCJHOP

Twin Cities Justice House of Prayer



**OUTPOST
MINISTRIES**

LOVING GOD • DECLARING FREEDOM
— A MINISTRY OF TCJHOP —

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Merry Christmas
from the Outpost Ministries'
and TCJHOP staff!



For the Bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Jesus said to them, "I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst"

- John 6:33, 35 -

But in all the land of Egypt there was bread. —Genesis 41:54, ESV

This may seem an odd passage for Christmas, but let's take a closer look. Egypt often represented slavery and oppression in the Bible. However we also see that God repeatedly used Egypt to deliver or save His people, particularly from starvation. Abraham AND Jacob independently sought "salvation" in Egypt because God directed them to the provision that was there. This salvation, however, was limited to physical life. Thus, Israel would ultimately require a Deliverer to set them free because she had settled into complacent dependency upon Egypt, which eventually led to oppression.

Further, do you recall that Jesus Himself sought refuge in Egypt? An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." (Matthew 2:13, ESV) Let's not make too much of this theologically, as Jesus was a small child requiring 100% care, just like any other. So, Jesus, the Deliverer also entered into Egypt for deliverance at this time. This was prophesied in Hosea 11:1, "out of Egypt I called my son." (See also Matthew 2:15.)

Jesus as our Deliverer came to do more than merely save our physical lives. He came to save us wholly: body, soul, and spirit. We are then empowered to live out our salvation in service to God and others. Who serves food to the poor? Most rescue missions are run by Christians. Who heals the sick? Many hospitals and medical missions are run by believers. Even the oppression by 18th century slave traders was ended largely by Christians declaring "Freedom!" to slaves. These are messianic (though limited) works that Jesus began, saying, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven..., not like the bread their fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." (John 6:51,58 ESV)

May you be fed and strengthened by the Bread of Life this Advent season! Merry Christmas!

Dan P., Senior Pastor

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