



# God Provides

## FEASTING III

# What do we LONG for most deeply?

Marriage to complete us  
Retirement to give us real rest  
Diet to make us better looking  
Validation to reassure us

# In other words...

CULMINATION, COMPLETION

SATISFACTION, SATIATION

INCLUSION, CERTAINTY, DIRECTION

# Will we be satisfied by what God provides? (even when it comes from ravens?)

**1 Kings 17:2** Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah: **3** “**Leave** here, turn eastward and **hide** in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. **4** You will **drink from the brook**, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.”

**5** So he did what the Lord had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. **6** The ravens brought him

bread and meat in the morning and

bread and meat in the evening,

and he drank from the brook.



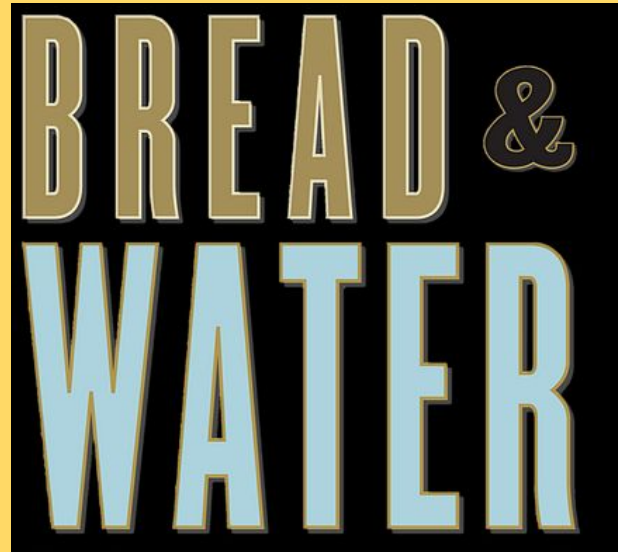
# Bread and meat... and water from the brook



## God Provides

But what if you're really  
depleted...

and you don't even get  
that?



**1 Kings 19:1** Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. **2** So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them.”

**3** Elijah was afraid<sup>[a]</sup> and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, **4** while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had **enough**, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” **5** Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.

**All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.” 6 He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.**

**7** The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat, for the journey is **too much** for you.” **8** So he got up and ate and drank.

**Strengthened** by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. **9** There he went into a cave and spent the night.



# God Provides

# Have you gone thru anything similar to this?

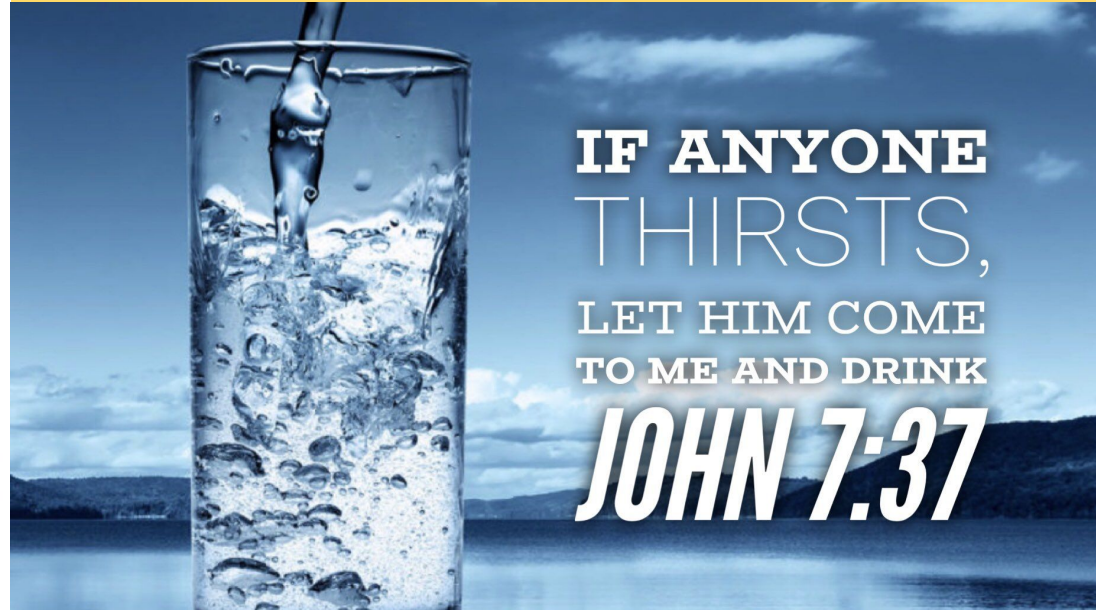
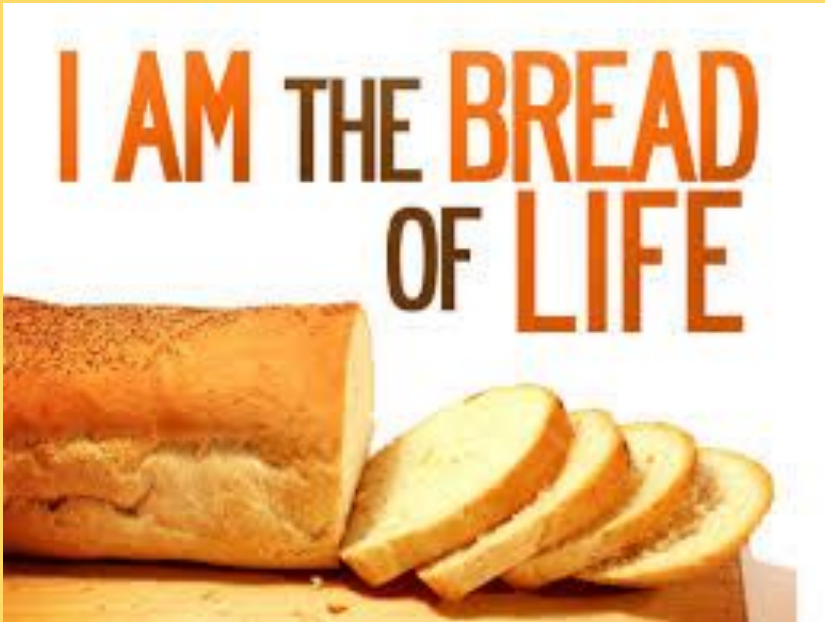
Afraid

Ready to die

Deeply fatigued... still



God wants to feed you when you are soul-hungry



God wants to deeply quench your thirst...

God Provides

# Fasting and Feasting

“While fasting implies abstaining from food, it more importantly means a feasting on God -

an utter dependence upon the presence of God *beyond* the sustenance of food.

In doing so we prove the words Jesus quoted during His own fast: “man does not live by bread alone but by every word that precedes from the mouth of God.”

# GOD HELP US

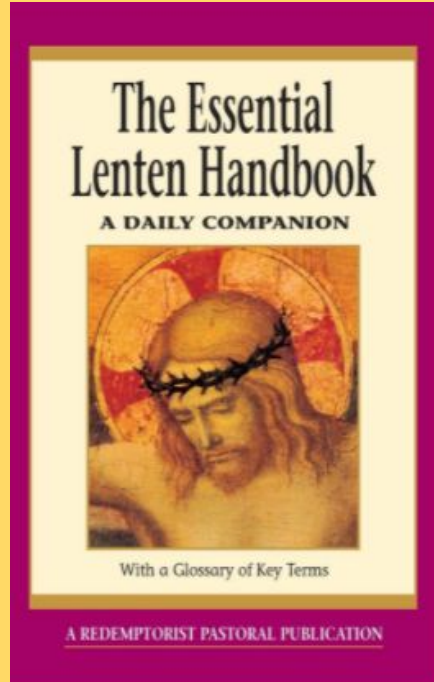
**Fast from judging others**

Fast from emphasis on differences

Fast from apparent darkness

Fast from words that pollute

Fast from discontent



**Feast on the Christ indwelling in them**

Feast on the unity of all life

Feast on the reality of light

Feast on phrases that purify

Feast on gratitude

# GOD HELP US

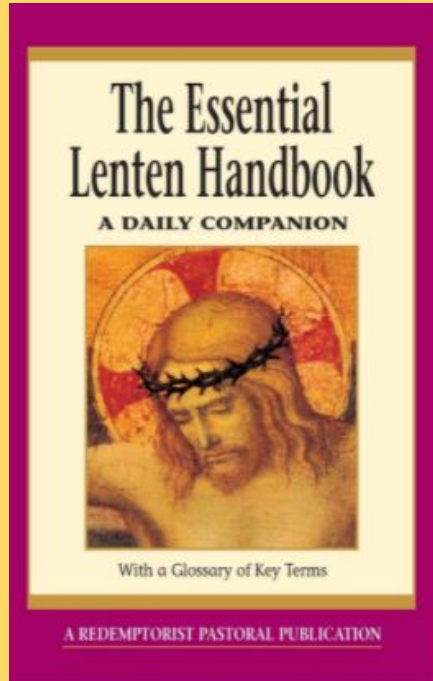
Fast from anger,

Fast from pessimism,

Fast from worry,

**Fast from complaining,**

Fast from negatives,



feast on patience

feast on optimism

feast on trust

**feast on appreciation**

feast on affirmatives

# GOD HELP US

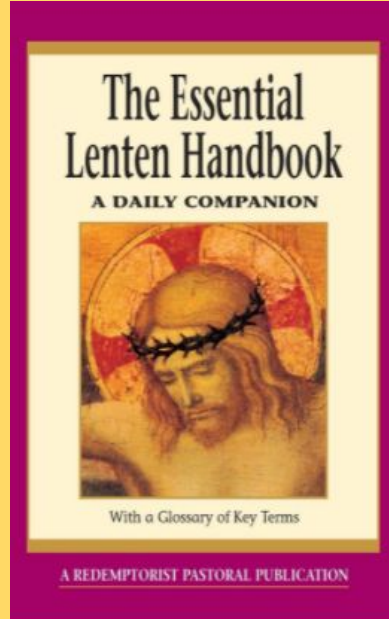
Fast from unrelenting pressures,

Fast from hostility,

Fast from bitterness,

Fast from self-concern,

**Fast from personal anxiety,**



**feast on unceasing prayer**

feast on nonviolence

feast on forgiveness

feast on compassion for  
others

**feast on eternal truth**

# GOD HELP US

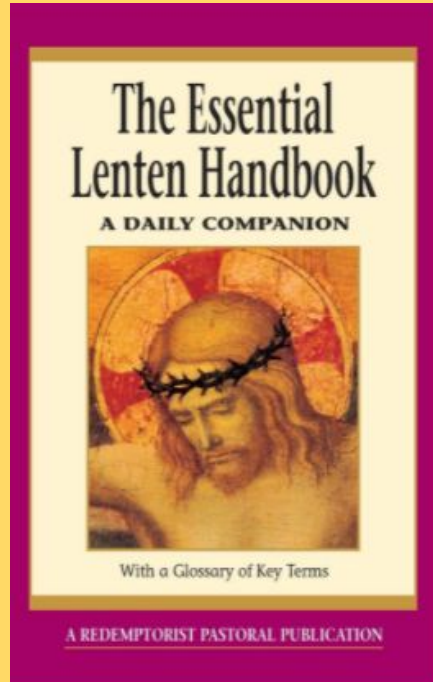
Fast from discouragement

**Fast from facts that  
depress**

Fast from lethargy

Fast from suspicion

Fast from thoughts that  
weaken



Feast on hope

**Feast on truths that uplift**

Feast on enthusiasm

Feast on truth

Feast on promises that inspire

# GOD HELP US

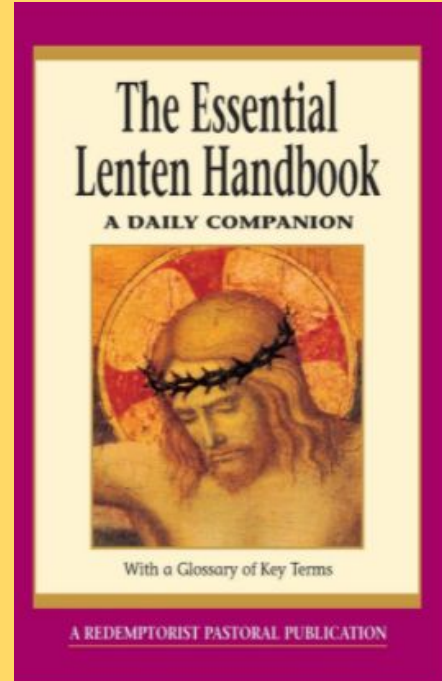
Fast from idle gossip,

feast on purposeful silence

Gentle God, during this season of  
fasting and feasting,

gift us with your presence.

From *The Essential Lenten Handbook: A Daily Companion*. (Thomas M. Santa, 2000)





# Personal story

First decade of ministry - so rewarding

Second decade of ministry - more complex

Fasting from a certain type of ministry

(governance, program-creating)

To Feast on the Lord in a deeply good way

(*lectio divina*, in nature)

## For Your Reflection:

How do you think about your life?

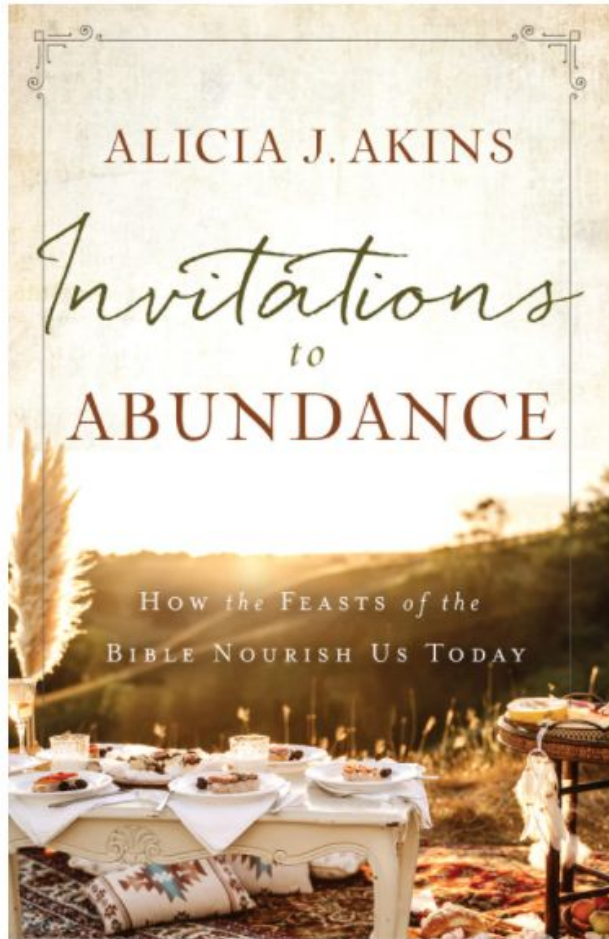
What do you need to pull back from?

What does God have next for you?



# God Provides

## FEASTING III



In the Gospels, Jesus likens the kingdom of God to a **banquet** multiple times.

# Jewish Expectation of the Great Feast

"On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare  
a **feast of rich food for all peoples,**  
a **banquet of aged wine--**  
the **best of meats and the finest of wines.**

On this mountain he will *swallow up*  
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;  
he will *swallow up* death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the  
tears from all faces;  
he will remove the disgrace of his people  
from all the earth." (Isaiah 25:6-8)



## Jesus Looked Forward to the Great Feast, during the Last Supper

"For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds **fulfillment** in the kingdom of God." (Luke 22:16)

"I tell you, I will **not** drink of this fruit of the vine from now on **until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom.**" (Matthew 26:29 || Mark 14:25)

"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death **until he comes.**" (1 Corinthians 11:26)

"Fulfillment" is the verb *plēroō*, "to make full." Here it could have one of two meanings: "to bring to a designed end, fulfill" a prophecy, a promise, etc., or "to bring to completion an activity in which one has been involved from its beginning, complete, finish."<sup>8</sup> Indeed, the Lord's Supper is *fulfilled* at the Great Banquet. This gathering of the redeemed of the Lord in the presence of God on the Last Day is the culmination and fulfillment of the incarnation, the cross, and the resurrection.



# Revelation culminates with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb









# Who will be there?

In Luke 14, Jesus **cautions** against throwing a feast just for friends, family, or those who could repay you and from being status seeking.

This chapter looks at how **the vulnerable and marginalized have a place at God's table ...**

and at how our king takes the seat of least honor as an example for us to follow

(Indian cultural tradition about welcoming your guest as if they were the Lord; hosts eating after/last!)



# Luke 14 - The Parable of the Great Banquet

**15** When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, “Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

**16** Jesus replied: “A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. **17** At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’

**18** “But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.’

**19** “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

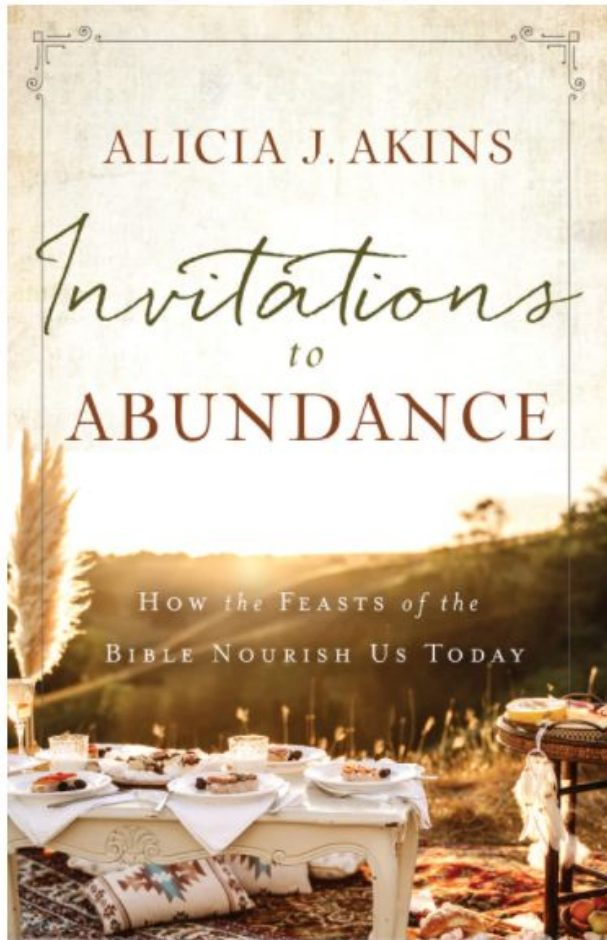
**20** “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ → **NO GOOD EXCUSES**

**21** “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

**22** “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but **there is still room.**’

**23** “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full.

**24** I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.” → **DON’T MISS OUT**



Available March 1, 2022

## The Wedding Feast of the Lamb (Chap 12)

**...the bride and bridegroom will be united at last ...**

Be encouraged to endure!

The chapter brings together the various descriptions of the wedding feast, from the bride and her adornment, the glory of the groom, and the resplendent venue. It also connects this feast back to all the others.

The chapter closes with a call to **be changed by the invitations we are extended in Christ, to move from people receiving such lavish grace to**

***those extending lavish grace to others.***

God “did not say: You will not be troubled, you will not be laboured, you will not be disquieted; but he said: **You will not be overcome.**

God wants us to pay attention to these words,

and always to be strong in faithful trust, in well-being and in woe,

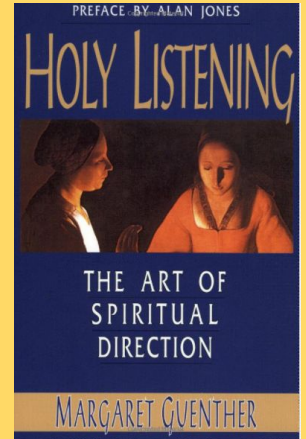
for he loves and delights in us,

and so he wishes us to love him and delight in him and trust greatly in him,

**And all will be well.**



Dame Julian of Norwich  
(page 63)



our longings may be  
reflections...  
of what is actually ahead

Marriage to complete us → to the Lamb

Retirement to give us real rest → Final Rest

Diet to make us better looking → True Feasting

Validation to reassure us → Eternal Value

CULMINATION, COMPLETION

SATISFACTION, SATIATION

INCLUSION, CERTAINTY, DIRECTION

And this same God who takes care of me  
will supply all your needs from his glorious riches,  
which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

May you be  
*deeply satisfied*  
in all that is ahead  
As God Provides





# God Provides

## FEASTING III