

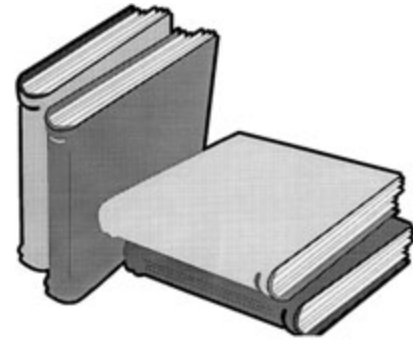
The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



Issue 1007

Food Was Called into Existence.

A lesson from John 6:1-14, The feeding of the 5000.

We have, for one thing, in this miracle, ***a lesson about Christ's almighty power.*** We see our Lord feeding five thousand men with "five barley loaves and two small fishes." We see clear proof that a miraculous event took place in the "twelve baskets of fragments" that remained after all had eaten.

Creative power was manifestly exercised. Food was called into existence that did not exist before. In healing the sick and raising the dead something was amended or restored that had already existed. In feeding five thousand men with five loaves something must have been created which before had no existence.

Such a history as this ought to be specially instructive and encouraging to all who endeavour to do good to souls. **It shows the Lord Jesus "able to save to the uttermost."** He is One who has all power over dead hearts. Not only can He mend that which is broken, build up that which is ruined, heal that which is sick, strengthen that which is weak. He can do even greater things than these. **He can call into being that which was not before,** and call it out of nothing.

We must never despair of any one being saved. So long as there is life there is hope. Reason and sense may say that some poor sinner is too hardened, or too old to be converted. Faith will reply, "Our Master can create as well as renew. With a Saviour who, by His Spirit, can create a new heart, nothing is impossible."

J. C. Ryle, Commentary on John, 1865, p. 324.
In the church library.