

## The Table of Showbread - Ex 25:23-30

July 12, 2020



### The Holy Place

When a priest enters the holy place, he would see a glorious display of gold, representing the glory of God.

Only the priest could enter the Holy Place, telling us that only those who are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a people for God's own possession (1Pt 2:5, 9) can enter into the spiritual significance of its symbolic contents.

### The Table

It was 1'6" wide, 3' long, and 2'3" high. It was made of acacia (shittim) wood that was overlaid with gold. There were four rings attached to it so that it could be carried by gold-covered poles. It had a gold rim about 3" wide around the top edge of the table to keep objects from falling off. It was positioned on the north side of the holy place (Ex 26:35; 40:22),

#### The table was made of shittim wood and overlaid with gold;

This is a picture the union of Deity (gold) and humanity (shittim wood) in the person of Jesus Christ.

#### The Table had a gold crown or border.

Ex 25:24-25 "You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a gold border around it. 25 "You shall make for it a rim of a handbreadth around it; and you shall make a gold border for the rim around it.

The word "border" is used ten times in the OT, each in reference to the "crown" or "molding" around the Ark (Ex 25:11), the table of show-bread (Ex 25:24–25), and the altar of incense (Ex 30:3–4). It is never used for a king's crown. [from the Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament]

This golden crown speaks of Jesus Christ glorified.

Heb 2:9 But we do see Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, ...

**Protection:** The loaves were protected by "a golden crown,"  
"Neither shall any pluck them out of My hand" (Jn 10:28)

The bread was not removed from the Table even when Israel was on the march (Num 4:7), and the raised border would hold the cakes in place, preventing them from slipping off.

**Security:** By the grace of God we are sealed with the Holy Spirit.

The concept of sealing includes the ideas of ownership, authority, and security. Since God has sealed us, we are His possession, secure until the day of redemption (Eph 1:13; 4:30; 2Cor 1:22).

**The Utensils** (Ex 25:29)

The dishes, pans, jars and bowls were tools used in the priest's ministry in the Holy Place.

The dishes were probably used in connection with the bread.

The pans would be employed in connection with the frankincense.

The jars and bowls were used in connection with the "drink offerings" which were poured out before the Lord "in the holy place" (Num 28:7).

The "drink-offerings" expressed thanksgiving, communion is the basis of thanksgiving (Mt 26:26-29).

**The Rings and Poles** (Ex 25:26-28) These were made for their journeying.

They speak of the provision that God makes for His people while we pass through this world, feeding upon Christ Himself in communion with God. Wherever God led Israel, this table accompanied them. Wherever the Christian may go, there is always Christ to feed upon and commune with.

**The three Coverings** - These were only used while Israel journeyed.

Num 4:5-10 "When the camp sets out, ... 7 "Over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall also spread a cloth of blue and put on it the dishes and the pans and the sacrificial bowls and the jars for the drink offering, and the continual bread shall be on it. 8 "They shall spread over them a cloth of scarlet material, and cover the same with a covering of porpoise skin, and they shall insert its poles. 9 "Then they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand for the light, along with its lamps and its snuffers, and its trays and all its oil vessels, by which they serve it; 10 and they shall put it and all its utensils in a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying bars.

**First** - a cloth of blue was draped the Table, the bread, and its utensils.

The cloth of blue points to Jesus as the Bread from Heaven (7 times in John 6 Jesus declares this).

The first covering was seen only by the priests.

**Second** - over the cloth of blue was a cloth of scarlet.

Second, came the cloth of scarlet. This color was obtained from a worm. The same Hebrew word could be translated "scarlet" or "worm" as the reference required.

Ps 22 is called the cross-Psalm, "They pierced my hands and my feet" (v. 16); "They divide my garments among them" (v. 18); "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" (v. 1). We read "I am a worm (same word as "scarlet") and not a man." (v. 6).

This second covering was also only seen by the priests.

**Third** - and over the cloth of blue and cloth of scarlet was a covering of badger's skins.

The external covering was made from badgers' skins. This covering gave protection to the Table from the dust and other elements of the wilderness.

This third covering typified the cross of Jesus Christ. Jesus wasn't attractive to natural man's eyes. And His redemptive work of the cross is foolish and unappealing to them (1Cor 1:18-25).

This third covering seen by all as the Table was carried through the wilderness.

**The Table of Showbread is a picture of communion - symbolic of our fellowship with Christ.**

A table is where the food is placed and eaten.

Ps 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**Names given to this ordinance:**

**The Lord's Supper** - 1Cor 11:20 ... to eat the Lord's Supper (see Mt 26:26-29).

It points to a future supper that all believers will eat with Christ (Rev 19:9, 17).

### **The Table of the Lord - 1Cor 10:21**

A table was a place of feasted love and fellowship. Jesus has provided a place for us to sup with Him in an intimate way.

### **Communion - 1Cor 10:16**

The word "communion" means an intimate sharing of one person to another. Communion is to be a time of intimacy with the Lord and His Body.

### **Breaking of bread - Ac 20:7; Mt 26:26**

## **The bread**

Twelve loaves of bread were placed on the table in two rows of six (Lev 24:6), they were replaced every Sabbath day of rest (Lev 24:7-8), and could only be eaten by the priests and their families.

Lev 24:5-9 "Then you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it; two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake. 6 "You shall set them in two rows, six to a row, on the pure gold table before the LORD. 7 "You shall put pure frankincense on each row that it may be a memorial portion for the bread, even an offering by fire to the LORD. 8 "Every sabbath day he shall set it in order before the LORD continually; it is an everlasting covenant for the sons of Israel. 9 "It shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place; for it is most holy to him from the LORD'S offerings by fire, his portion forever."

### **We find the thought of food linked with Jesus in the Jn 6.**

#### **Food:**

Jn 6:27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

Jn 6:55 "For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink."

**Bread of heaven:** Used seven times in John 6 (vs. 32, 32, 38, 41, 42, 50, 58).

Jn 6:32-35 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread out of heaven, but it is My Father who gives you the true bread out of heaven. 33 "For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world."

**Bread of life:** Used three times in John 6 (vs. 35, 48, 51).

The One who 'came down from heaven' reminds us of the deity of our Lord; this is the gold.

### **The Table of Shew-bread is called "the table of the bread of the Presence" (Num 4:7)**

**The bread points to Christ Himself.** The name "shew-bread" is literally "bread of faces," [faces is a figure for presence] pointing to God's presence in the bread.

The fact that the bread was before the face of God always, told of its acceptableness to Him, and foreshadowed the person of Christ as the One in whom the Father found His delight.

Lev 24:5 "Then you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it; ..."

Young's Concordance translates cakes as "perforated" cakes. This bread speaks of Christ – He was pierced and on the cross was made sin for us. Like the fine flour that was baked in the cakes, Jesus was exposed to the fires of God's wrath as He bore our sin

Isa 53:4-6 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament say's this about cakes in this verse:

[cake (if pierced)] - It is used only eight times and usually means a fatal wounding of persons.

Zec 12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. (Isa 53:5)

Jn 19:33-37 (34) But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out ... (37 another Scripture says, "THEY SHALL LOOK ON HIM WHOM THEY PIERCED."

### **Why twelve pierced cakes?**

The twelve cakes on the table speak that Jesus identified with His covenant people (the tribes being represented before God); - not simply Israel after the flesh, for note "everlasting covenant",

Lev 24:8 "Every sabbath day he shall set it in order before the LORD continually; it is an everlasting covenant for the sons of Israel. [Rom 4:13-18; 9:6-8; Gal 3:26-29]

1Cor 10:16-17 Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? 17 Since there is one bread, we who are

Col 1:22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach

### **The cakes were all the same quality, size and weight.**

In spreading them out in two rows, instead of piling them up in a heap, each one would be seen equally as much as another. Our acceptance in Christ and our representation by Him admits of no degrees. All of God's covenant people have an equal standing before Him, and an equal nearness to Him.

Eph 1:6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved (NKJV) [see Rom 14:3; 15:7]

Gal 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

**The cakes were made of "fine flour"** (Lev. 25:5) in which was no grit or unevenness, foreshadowing the moral perfections of the Word as He tabernacled among men.

**"Pure frankincense"** was placed upon them, emblematic of the active graces of Christ, and assuring us that those who are in Christ are ever before God according to the value and fragrance of His blessed Son.

They were **replaced every Sabbath** so that never was the Table un-supplied, - continually (Lev 24:8).