

INSIDE THE TABERNACLE

TEXT: EXODUS 25:23-30

LESSON FIVE - THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD

INTRODUCTION: When you drew back the curtain and walk into the Holy Place you saw only three items of furniture in the small room called the Holy Place or the Inner Court. They were the Golden Lampstand, and the Altar of Incense and the Table of Shewbread. Each one of the articles had their symbolic meaning and importance. Today we look at the Table of Shewbread.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE TABLE

1. The Table of Shewbread was a **small** table made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold.
2. The Table of Shewbread measured 36 inches by 18 inches and **27** inches high.
3. The Table of Shewbread had two rows of **crowns** around the edge.
4. The Table of Shewbread on the **right** side of the Holy Place across from the Golden Lampstand.
5. The meaning of the word 'shewbread' is 'bread of the face', because it sat out before the face or presence of **God**.

THE SERVICE AT THE TABLE

1. The purpose of the Table of Shewbread was to hold **12** cakes of bread made of fine flour. They were placed there in two piles of six, each loaf representing one of the tribes of Israel.
2. The priests baked the bread and it remained on the table before the Lord for a **week**.
3. On the Sabbath day the priests would remove the old bread and **eat** it in the Holy Place, then put fresh bread on the table.
4. Only **priests** could eat the bread, and it could only be eaten in the Holy Place, because it was holy.

THE INGREDIENTS FOR THE SHEWBREAD

- ✓ The Shewbread was made of **fine** flour.
- ✓ The Shewbread was made without any **leaven**.
- ✓ The Shewbread was **sprinkled** with pure frankincense.

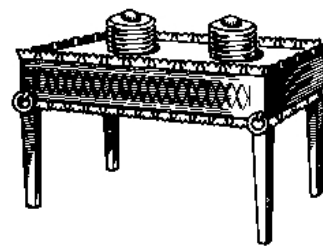
NOTES:

No Chair! The bread was on a table, but no priest could ever be seated at that table or anywhere else in the tabernacle.

The 12 cakes were the same material, size, and weight – God shows no partiality.

The two piles of six cakes shows that our God is a God of order, it shows how important it is to match our will with Gods will.

The 12 cakes represented the twelve tribes of Israel, continually before God.



The Table of Shewbread

INSIDE THE TABERNACLE

OUR SAVIOUR IS THE TABLE AND THE BREAD

1. The Table is an Illustration of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ The indestructible, acacia wood symbolizes the **human** nature of Jesus, withstanding the fire of the crucifixion and the decaying of the grave.
 - ✓ The gold in the table symbolizes the **divine** nature of Jesus, His eternal existence, omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence.
 - ✓ The wood overlaid with gold symbolizes the mysterious **union** of Jesus' divine and human natures.
 - ✓ The Table of had two crowns, which symbolizes the two crowns Jesus wears: once with **thorns** and the crown He will wear as King of Kings, Lord of Lords.
2. The Shewbread is an Illustration of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.
 - ✓ The Shewbread is a representation of **life** itself.
 - ✓ The Shewbread sat continually before the **face** of God.
 - ✓ The Shewbread was made of fine flower that had to be **crushed**, ground and sifted.
 - ✓ The Shewbread was sprinkled with frankincense, which symbolized the sweet **smell** of the perfect life that Jesus lived.

OUR SUSTENANCE CAN BE FOUND AT THE TABLE

1. The Table and the bread are pictures of God's willingness to **fellowship** and have communion with us.
2. The Golden Candlestick represented the need for the light of regeneration and the Table of Shewbread represents the need of **daily** spiritual nutrition.
3. The bread was only eaten by the priests as a memorial. Now **all** Christians may come to the Lords table and take of the bread.
4. Jesus is the **source** of life, the **sustainer** of life and the **satisfaction** of life.

Jesus was victorious over the sifting process of Satan's temptation and the testing of the religious leaders.

We as Christians must be like Jesus - unleavened, fine flour having passed through Gods mill to bring an evenness of character, perfected through suffering.

I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. John 6:51