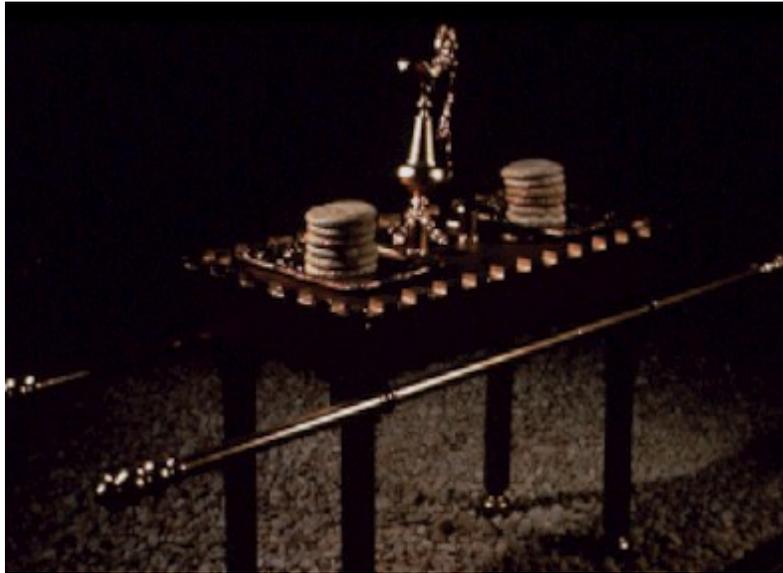


TABLE OF SHOWBREAD

"I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE"



Exod 25:23-30

Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about. And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof. Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them. And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me always. (KJV)

The table is found located on the right side of the holy place. Twelve loaves are placed on the table each week for God's enjoyment. The next week when replaced by the new loaves, the priest may eat the "older" loaves.

The table symbolizes fellowship. It shows a gesture of friendship, as inviting a friend to share a meal. The table in the tabernacle shows God's desire for fellowship with us. Jesus was a friend of publicans and sinners because He sat and ate with them at the table. *God wishes to satisfy our hunger.* God's salvation is likened to a banquet with the table spread for royalty.

The table was opposite the lampstand. The **lampstand** supplied light in the holy place.

It symbolized Christ, "in Him was life" = source of life = **in Him**. **The bread on the table symbolized the means of life.** It maintained physical life or was the sustenance of life. You do not get life by eating bread, it is not a source.

God knows what we need:

1. new life = source (light of regeneration) 2. sustain life = means (continuing life)

Together they produce eternal bliss. Jesus knows we are hungry when He offers himself. We are a people of hearts unsatisfied and hungry for life. What is the solution?

John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:48-69

I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 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. The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

The ancient world was a sad place due to NO HOPE. The people sought immortality by any means. What hope do we have today beyond this life? "I am the bread of life, come down from heaven, to satisfy the hunger you have and give you eternal life." Jesus came from the eternal world, like the manna of the Old Testament, to bring the bread of life.

The miracle of the fish and the loaves preceded the sermon on the "everlasting bread." The 5000 were fed and there was extra food. In Jn 6:12 the disciples are told to gather all the fragments left. The lesson is that not one will be lost that was given Him and all will be raised up the last day. If only a crumb comes your way, take and eat of the bread of life! "I take Christ and do believe on Him. I shall be saved because He will do God's will to the last crumb."

Man is hungry for life and does not want to die. Is he also hungry for a better kind of life?

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Christ said I am returning to the spiritual world. We are to live by His words and follow Him to this same spiritual kingdom. The secret of satisfaction is spiritual in the end. There is another world, a great and eternal world that we see signs and symbols of in this World. We eat bread to satisfy our hunger, God offers the Bread of Eternal Life. We have parents, God offers to be our Father. We live in a home here, God offers an Eternal dwelling! In the temporary things of this world there is no permanent satisfaction. In the eternal world of our Savior, there is everlasting joy and satisfaction. We may enjoy things here, but the heart longs for something lasting, something eternal.

This is eternal fulfillment, but we may have it now by **fellowship with God** today. The hand of God reaches out to us to provide eternal food to satisfy all today. Will you receive it before the offer comes to an end? How shall we go into eternity? With Christ as our eternal source of satisfaction or eternally unfilled? **Eternity will be meaningless and forever unsatisfying without the bread of life.** We may gather at the Father's table in fellowship in the light and life of our blessed Savior.

All the furniture in the tabernacle on the way to God speaks of Christ because He is the only way to God. The spiritual level must be established when studying the tabernacle. To the ancient Israelites it was a means of approach to God, a pattern of heavenly things, and a shadow of coming things. The bread of life is offered to satisfy the hunger for life. The table is the basis of fellowship with God. **A picture of our Lord as our basis of fellowship with God.**

The Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice and death is connected with all facets of the tabernacle and nothing can be enjoyed without Calvary. The Lord's Table (New Testament) looks back to the table of showbread (Old Testament) as a picture of fellowship with God.

The lampstand and table of showbread are vessels of presentation. The 7 lamps

on the lampstand provide a lovely light in the holy place. The world would be a drab place without light. The quality of light fills the world with color. We use the metaphor "please shed some light on the problem." God is light - He adds color to life and meaning to eternity. Sin takes the color out of life and leads to darkness.

What's the purpose of being saved?

1. saved from eternal damnation 2. to witness to a dark world to see others saved

Ephesians 1:4 says we chosen before we were even created. It also gives us the purpose of our creation, "to stand holy and unblameable before Him." The table of showbread and the lampstand were both vessels used to present things "before Him". The tabernacle illustrates Ephesians 1:4 with the 2 vessels of presentation: 1). Lamps are to shine continuously before the Lord to allow the priest to function. This points us to the source of light and life. 2). Table of 12 loaves before the Lord. Is God hungry for bread? What do the twelve loaves of bread represent to God? Does He desire our fellowship? The all sufficient One decided to need you!

Why did God create you? Why did He redeem you? He needs nothing but decided He wanted us. He determined we should be before Him holy and unblameable.

Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.** **The risen Lord desires to dine with us! He stands outside the doors of our lives and desires to be fed.** Do we provide Him fellowship? Uninterrupted? This is not the man Jesus asking, but the glorious risen one, the Son of God!

We were created for His pleasure and are to stand before Him holy and unblameable. God's purpose was to have *me before Him*. The world has no interest in us, but almighty God desires that we are before Him in fellowship. Unwilling creatures which He demanded to come before Him would be unsatisfying. His own were "foreordained as sons of God". Sons given to fellowship with the heart of God! *His own would have the very life of God within them, God's spirit, mind, and life to minister unto God intelligently for His pleasure.* Creatures had no choice if they would be here on earth. They were put here for God's pleasure. Man does have a choice if he will become a son of God. It is a decision of faith for each man or woman.

John 1:12-13 But as many as received him, *to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:* Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Phil 2:15

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, *the sons of God*, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among *whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

We can not be born married. We must make a decision to become married. God has an offer that we should become the sons of God? Have you decided? God thought it worthwhile to create a planet to support creatures who would choose to become sons of God before Him. *Man turned his back to God and gone his own way.* Why didn't God just crush the planet and end the disobedience? His love and mercy provided an opportunity to fulfill his purpose for us. How can we fulfill his desires?

Eph 1:18-19, The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; *that ye may know what is the hope of his calling*, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

God has seated us before Him (Eph 2:6) and Christ presents us to Him. This is **not** in a earthly tabernacle, but in the spiritual realm of the eternal tabernacle (the holiest of all). There Christ is before the Father to present me to Him. He does this High Priestly work not only now, but all week long like the loaves on the table for God's satisfaction.

It is a continuous presentation = I was made to be a son of God, a forgiven creation of God to be presented before God for His satisfaction. *May we be found sitting before him for His pleasure "shining before the Lord".*