

Lesson Seven: How to Get Good Spiritual Nourishment (The Table Of Showbread)

Text: Exodus 25:23-30; Leviticus 24:5-9;

Introduction:

I. The Specifications of the Table - Exodus 25:23 "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." 2 X 1 X 1 1/2 = 36" Long X 18" Wide X 27" Tall

II. The Showbread Itself - Exodus 25:30 "And thou shalt set upon the table showbread before me always."

Leviticus 24:5-9 "And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. 6 And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. 7 And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 8 Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. 9 And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute."

Personal Study - It was considered a sacrilege for anyone except a priest to eat the Showbread. Cp. 1 Samuel 21:2-3; Matthew 12:4; Why do you think that David was allowed to partake of the Showbread with no evident consequences?

III. The Spiritual Significance of the Table of Showbread -

A. In the NT, bread is symbolic of both the living and the written WORD of God. John 6:33, 35, 47, "For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. 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. 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life." John 6:51, 53, 63, 68; "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. 53 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.; 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. 68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life."

B. Jesus Christ is the origin of spiritual life, but to remain in good spiritual health we must have regular nourishment from the Word of God. Job 23:12; Matthew 4:4; Jeremiah 15:16;

C. The fact that the showbread could only be eaten by the priest is very significant. 1 Peter 2:3,5,9; "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:"

D. The Table of Showbread was in the Holy Place, a place where the priests were separated from the cares, desires and distractions of the world. Of what should this location remind us concerning how we partake of the written Bread of Life? I believe that every Christian would do well to write the following quote in the front of his or her Bible: "This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book."