

Lesson Seven

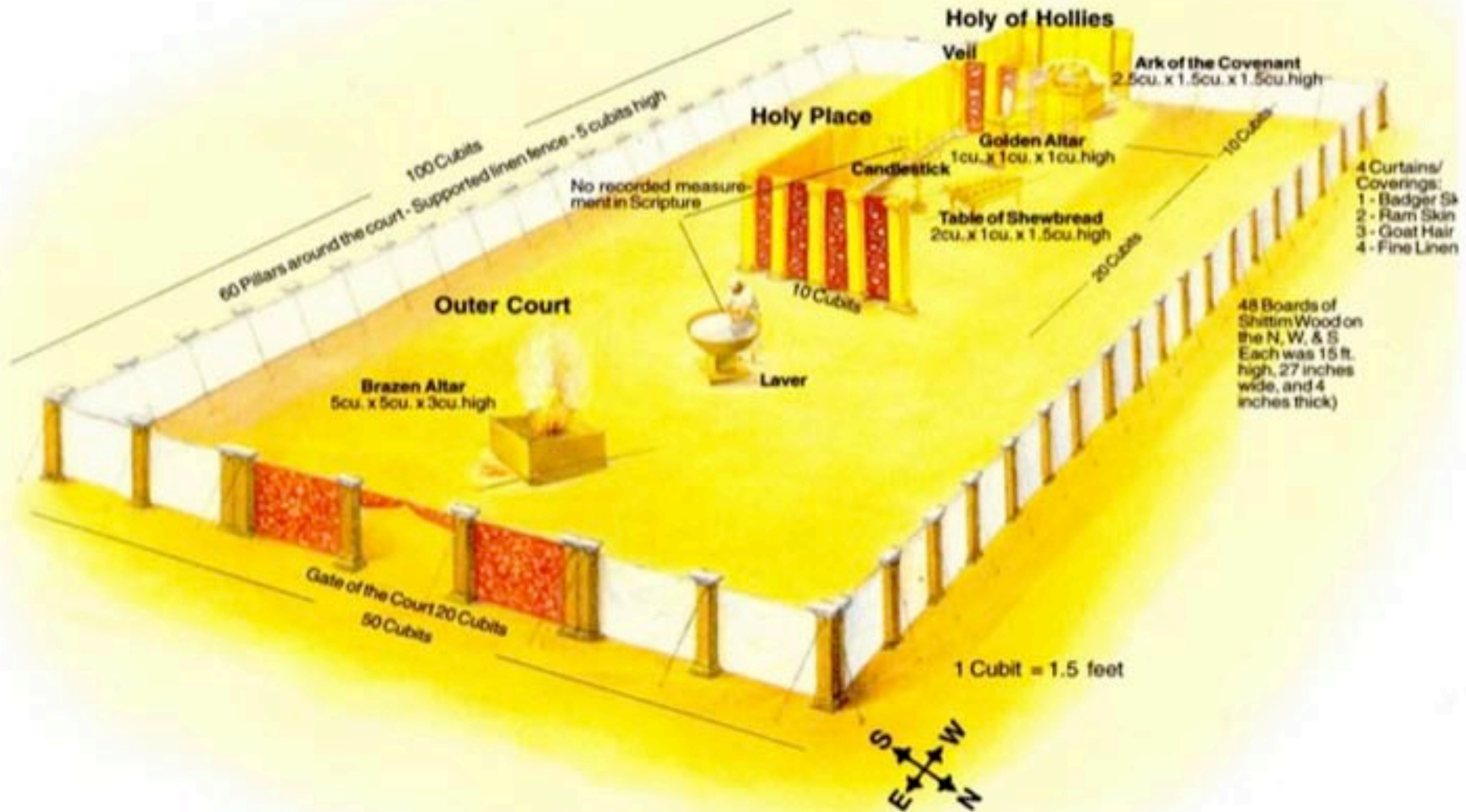
How TO Get Good Spiritual Nourishment

The Table Of Shewbread

Question and Review

What do the three entry ways in the Tabernacle have in common and what do they teach?

The Structure and Dimensions of the Tabernacle



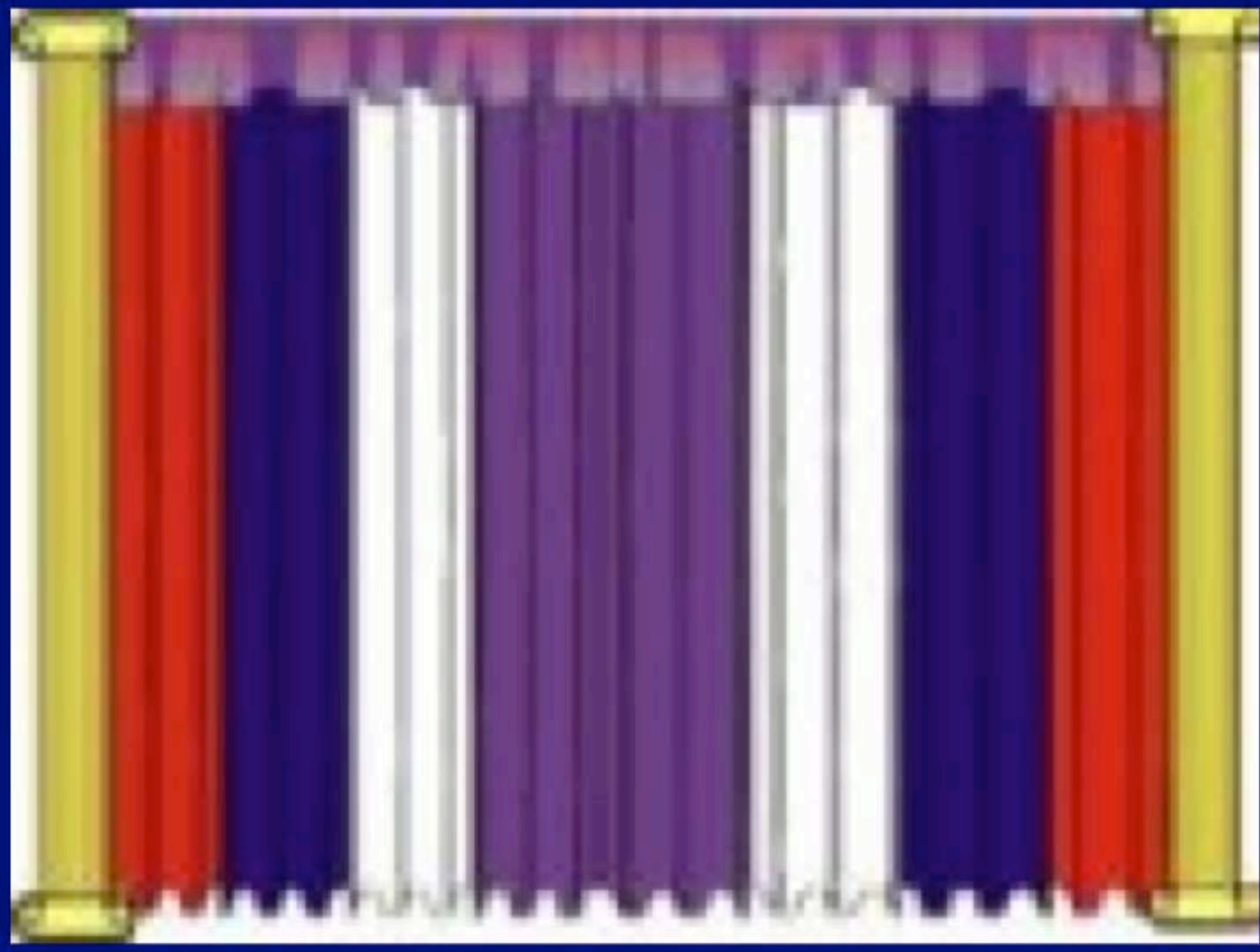
Blue - His Godly Nature

Purple - His Royalty

Scarlet - His Suffering

White - His Sinlessness







**Altar of
Incense**

**Golden
Candlestick**

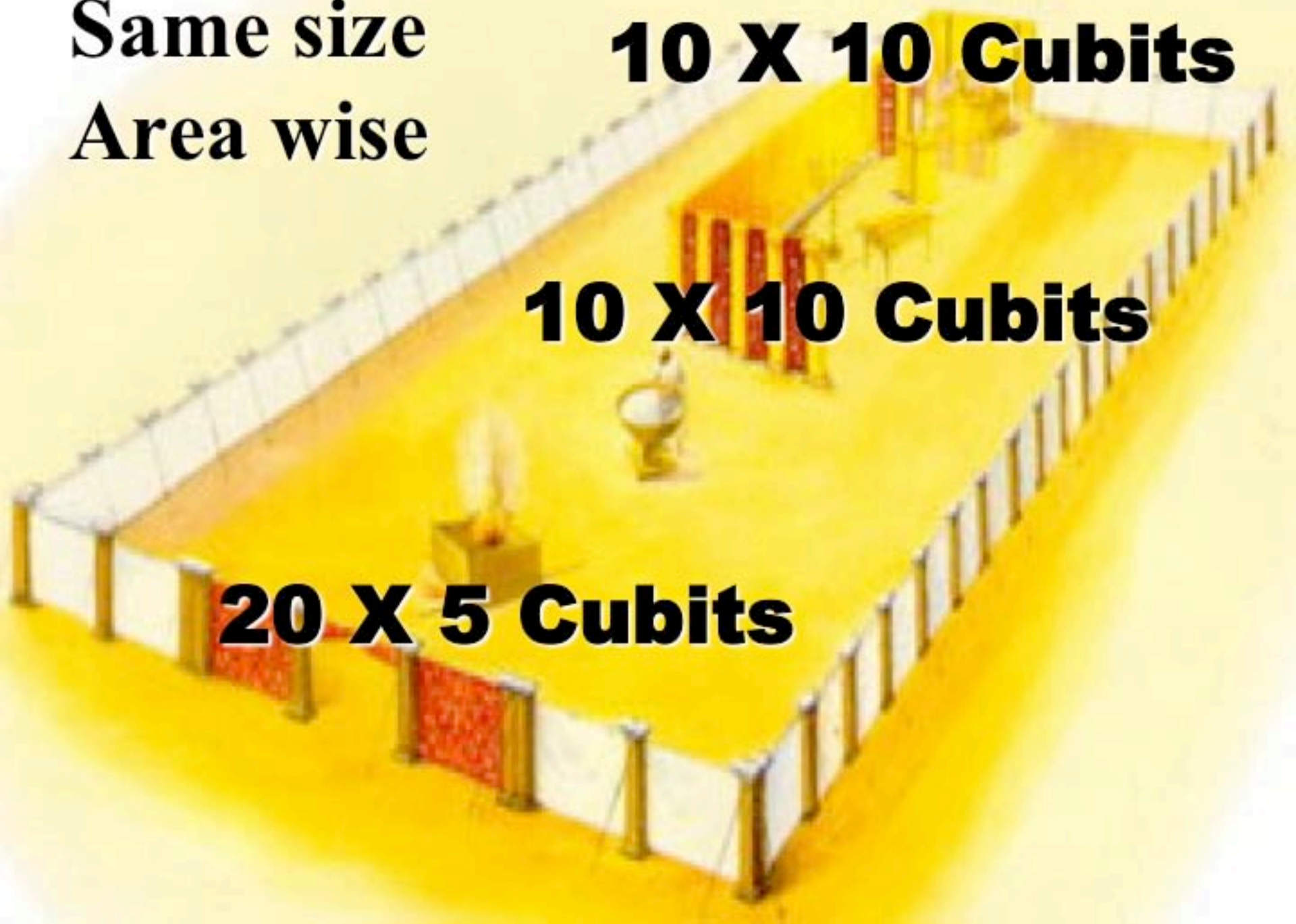
**Table Of
Shewbread**

Same size
Area wise

10 X 10 Cubits

10 X 10 Cubits

20 X 5 Cubits



After entering through the door into the Holy Place, the priests would see three pieces of furniture, which were illuminated by:



There were no windows or natural light in the Holy Place.

Therefore, the only source of light was the golden candlestick or lampstand.

Without light from this golden lampstand the other pieces of furniture could not be seen or used.



**Altar Of
Incense**

We resume our study of the Tabernacle as one entered this door into the Holy Place, on the left was the golden lampstand, and just opposite it on the right was the table of showbread.

Once inside the Holy Place, the priests were surrounded by immaculate beauty.

The walls of the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies were made of:

Exodus 26:15 "And for the tabernacle you shall make the boards of acacia wood, standing upright."

However, the real beauty of these walls was because of the important fact found in:

Exodus 26:29 "And thou shalt overlay the boards with gold, and make their rings of gold for places for the bars: and thou shalt overlay the bars with gold."

Thus, when one entered the tabernacle proper, with the exception of the beautiful four-colored ceiling embroidered with the images of cherubim, one was completely surrounded by walls and furniture made of approximately one and one-fourth tons of pure gold.

This is the atmosphere in which the priests ministered at the table of showbread.

The Table Of Shewbread

In this lesson we will consider the specifications of the table, the showbread itself, and the spiritual significance of the table of showbread.

Table Of Shewbread



I. The Specifications of the Table

Exodus 25:23 "You shall also make a table of acacia wood; two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height."

36" L X 18" W X 27" T

The edge of the table top had a golden molding probably with a very beautiful ornate design.

Exodus 25:24 "And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around."

There was also a border of a hand-breadth round about the table with a golden crown that went around the edge of the table top.

This means a rim protruded up *a hand breadth* (four and a half inches), probably to contain the bread and various vessels that sat on the table.

Table Of Shewbread

C
R
O
W
N



At the four corners of the table were gold rings through which the staves, or poles, were placed so the table could be carried by the Israelites as they marched from place to place.

The staves were also made of acacia wood covered with pure gold.

Like all the other pieces of furniture in the tabernacle proper, the table of showbread was never seen except by the priests who ministered in the tabernacle.

It was carefully covered by the priests and the staves put through the gold rings before the Levites carried it on the wilderness journey.

The specifications for the table of showbread also include some accessories found in;

Exodus 25:29 "You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold."

The *dishes* or plates were to hold the loaves.

The *spoons* were small cups that were filled with incense and burned on top of the showbread.

Leviticus 24:7 "And you shall put pure frankincense on each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to the LORD."

The *covers* are believed to have been "flagons" or "chalices" used in the rite of the drink offerings (Numbers 28:7).

Having considered the specification of the table, let's now examine...

II. The Showbread Itself

Exodus 25:30 "And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always."

The showbread was made of fine meal flour (Leviticus 24:5) and in all probability was placed on the table in twelve golden plates, in two rows of six (Leviticus 24:6), one for each of the twelve tribes.



Numbers 4:7-8 “And over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall spread a cloth of blue and put on it the plates, the dishes for incense, the bowls, and the flagons for the drink offering; the regular showbread also shall be on it. Then they shall spread over them a cloth of scarlet and cover the same with a covering of goatskin, and shall put in

The Bread's Purpose...

Leviticus 24:9 "And 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 offerings of the LORD made by fire, by a perpetual statute."

It was considered sacrilegious for anyone except a priest to eat the showbread.

Having considered the Showbread itself, let's now examine...

III. The Spiritual Significance of the Table

The showbread was reserved for those who Jesus is Lord.

The priests were given other food to sustain them, but the eating of this food was no doubt done with a deep awareness of its spiritual significance and holiness.

In the NT, bread is symbolic both of the living and the written Word of God.

How did Jesus describe Himself in the following references:

John 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

John 6:35 "And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

Jesus Christ is the origin of spiritual life, but to remain in good spiritual health we must have regular nourishment from the Word.

The following references make it clear the Word of God is spiritual food.

Job 23:12 "I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food." (ESV)

Matthew 4:4 But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " (ESV)

Eating good food is delightful and rejuvenating.

Similarly, how does Jeremiah describe the ingesting of God's Word?

Jeremiah 15:16 “Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.” (ESV)

The fact that the showbread could only be eaten by the priests is very significant.

As we have already concluded in an earlier lesson, all Christ chosen ones are priests unto God.

As Christians, we all have the same relationship with God but not all have the same degree of fellowship.

To use an illustration from the tabernacle, many Christians are still in the court refusing to wash at the laver, while others who have confessed and forsaken known sin are serving God in the Holy Place.

It is only in the Holy Place of the Christian life (close fellowship with God) that the Word of God can be the joy and rejoicing (Jeremiah 15:16) of a believer's heart.

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 during our Bible study time, if the Bible is to be all God intended it be in our lives?

Have you ever wondered why some Christians read the Bible and seem to get so much out of it, while others find it so boring and confusing?

The reason is some believers are serving the Lord in the “Holy Place,” while the others are in the courtyard.

Therefore, when the Bible seems to lose its joy and rejuvenating power, what should we consider?

I Believe every Christian should 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.”

Conclusion:

Based on these lessons, list four things that must be true in your life if you are to feast on the Bread of Life?

Have Been To The Brazen Altar – Sin Consumed – John 3:16

Have Been to the Laver - Sin Confessed - 1 John 1:9

Have Come to The Holy Place - Lives Surrendered – 1 John 5:14

Daily Feeding on the Written Word Of God – Matthew 4:4

PRAYER TIME