

Sanctuary Messages Series
Lesson 9: Table of Shewbread
Bible sermon notes by Pastor Cary Rodgers

Today we are going to study about the Table of Shewbread on the north side of the holy place in the temple. In other words, it is on the right side of the temple after the priest entered the door of the temple.

Exodus 26:35

35 And thou shalt set the table without the veil, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side.

We will learn about the symbolism and the spiritual lessons revealed from the Table of Shewbread

What is the description of the Table of Shewbread?

Exodus 25:23-30

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.

24 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about.

25 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.

26 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.

27 Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table.

28 And thou shalt make the staves *of* shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them.

29 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.

30 And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me always.

Summary of the Table of Shewbread description

- Made of shittim wood overlaid with gold. Shittim was an acacia wood known for its durability and beauty.
- Shittim wood – acacia wood. Acacia wood is hard wood known for making beautiful furniture and flooring.
- Crown of gold was on the top edges of the table.

- Four golden rings on the corners.
- Two staves made of shittim wood overlaid with gold
- The staves went through the four golden rings to carry the table
- The dishes of spoons and bowls on top of the table on shewbread were pure good

What cover was put on top of the Table of Shewbread?

Numbers 4:7

7 And upon the table of shewbread they shall spread a cloth of blue, and put thereon the dishes, and the spoons, and the bowls, and covers to cover withal: and the continual bread shall be thereon:

Blue cloth was put on top of the table of shewbread for the dishes and the bread to set on top.

What was the size of the Table of Shewbread?

“two cubits *shall be* the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof.” (Numbers 4:7)

1 cubit = 1 ½ feet (1 foot 6 inches)

Length = 3 ft

Width (breadth) = 1 ½ feet

Height = 2 ¼ ft

Based on the dimensions of the Table of Shewbread, it was not too big. The height of it is pretty short. It was a little taller than an average coffee table which is around 20 inches (1.6 feet). We will see the spiritual lesson for the Table of Shewbread shortness later.

Besides the dishes, what was placed on top of the Table of Shewbread?

“And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway.” (Exodus 25:30)

Shewbread (Hebrew) = there are two Strong's Hebrew reference numbers.

H3899 = bread made from grains like wheat or barley

H6440 = The face (Strong's Hebrew Dictionary)

BDB (Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Dictionary)

1) face

1a) face, faces

1b) presence, person

“**Shew-bread** - לחם פנים lechem panim literally, bread of faces; so called, either because they were placed before the presence or face of God in the sanctuary.” (Adam Clark’s Commentary)

“**showbread** — literally, *presence bread*, so called because it was constantly exhibited before the Lord, or because the bread of His presence.” (Jamison, Fausett, and Brown Commentary)

Shewbread was also known as presence bread. In addition to the Table of Shewbread, it was sometimes called the “table of presence”. We will look at the spiritual meaning later.

The Shewbread was made of fine flour. It is made by sifting the wheat or barley to make it fine. It was most likely unleavened bread made with fine flour, water, and olive oil.

1 Chronicles 23:29

29 Both for the shewbread, and for the fine flour for meat offering, and for the unleavened cakes, and for *that which is baked in* the pan, and for that which is fried, and for all manner of measure and size;

Fresh Shewbread was set on the table of shewbread every Sabbath.

Leviticus 24:8

8 Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, *being taken* from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.

12 cakes

12 cakes bread was made for the Table of Shewbread. There were two rows of six cakes. A container of frankincense was placed on the top of each row.

Let’s look at the spiritual significance and lesson that we can learn from the Table of Shewbread.

12 Cakes points to:

12 tribes of Israel

12 Disciples / apostles

144,000

The purpose of the 12 tribes were to share the everlasting gospel with others. As a nation they failed.

Jesus personally trained 12 disciples. The twelve disciples who were known as apostles in the book of Acts successfully shared the gospel.

144,000 are the last day apostles giving the everlasting gospel and loud cry final urgent message to the world to come out of Babylon..

Revelation 7:4

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Bread in general is known as the staff of life that has all the nutrients to give us life, vitality and strength.

Spiritually, Jesus is the bread of life.

John 6:48-58

48 I am that bread of life.

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51 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.

52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat?

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.*

54 *Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

55 *For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.*

56 *He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*

57 *As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.*

58 *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.*

The bread is also symbolic of the flesh of Christ. The bread and table of presence symbolically point to the continual presence of the Lord.

John 1:14-18

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

Jesus is divine and came to this earth in the human flesh to save us from sin.

Matthew 26:26

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is my body.**

This is part of communion in which the bread represents the flesh of Christ and the grape juice is symbolic of the blood of Christ that cleanses us from sin.

The bread of Christ is His flesh that represents the Word of God. We should eat the Word of God, His flesh daily.

Matthew 4:4 “But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Job 23:12 “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary *food*.”

The crown on the Table of Shewbread points to the divinity and royalty of Christ as King of kings.

1 Timothy 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

When we believe and live according to the Word of God we become part of the royalty of God's kingdom as sons and daughters of Christ the King. We also reflect His character being covered by the blood of the Lamb.

Blue cloth on top of the table is symbolic of the Ten Commandments. God's faithful are empowered by Christ to keep the commandments of God.

The short height of the table the priest bow before the Lord in humility while doing his service. We must also bow before the Lord in humility.