

“Table of Shewbread, Christ Our Sustenance”

Exodus 25:23-30

The Tabernacle of Testimony



I. THE SPECIFICATIONS OF THE TABLE (EXODUS 25:23-30)

A. WOOD AND GOLD: THE LORD'S HUMAN-DIVINE NATURE (25:23-24)

Wood speaks of the humanity of Christ (Is. 53:2). The Lord, our righteous Branch, is represented in the wood of this table. It is overlaid with gold which speaks of Deity and royalty. Wood overlaid with gold speaks of the human-divine nature of our Redeemer. Man, that He might die; God, that He might be worthy to die for us.

B. A CROWN ROUND ABOUT IT: THE LORD'S SOVEREIGNTY (25:24)

This crown speaks of His sovereignty, of His royalty, because our Lord is crowned with glory and with honor.

C. FOUR RINGS OF GOLD IN THE CORNERS: THE OMNIPRESENCE OF THE LORD (25:26-27)

The four rings of gold in either corner were for staves that would be slipped through those rings of gold. It tells us that this table was to be carried through the wilderness.

Everywhere they went, it went. It speaks of the omnipresence of our Lord Jesus Christ—that His presence is with us always.

D. THE UTENSILS: THE AVAILABILITY OF THE LORD (EXODUS 25:29)

They speak of the Holy Spirit, who makes the Lord Jesus Christ available to us.

E. THE TABLE LIFTED UP THE SHEWBREAD: CHRIST IN HIS GLORY (EXODUS 25:30)

The table lifted up the bread speaking of Christ in His glory, lifted up from the earth and exalted. The Lord is revealed to us as two kinds of bread.

1. Manna

Manna came down from Heaven miraculously; Christ came down from Heaven. He's the virgin-born Son of God. The manna was round which spoke of Jesus' perfection. The manna was white which spoke of His purity. The manna lay upon the ground which spoke of His humility. The manna sustained life which spoke of His Savior-hood and His life-giving properties. The manna represented Christ, the bread of life, in His humiliation.

2. Shewbread

Shewbread represents the same Christ now, in His glorification, lifted up from the earth; but still, the bread upon which every believer must feed.

II. THE SETTING OF THE TABLE (EXODUS 25:30)

A. THE PREPARATION OF THE BREAD (JOHN 6:35, 48, 51; LEV. 24:5)

In those day, they would take wheat and crush the bread. After they would crush it very fine, they would sift it; and then, they would mix it, and they would put it in the oven and bake it. This makes a good picture the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. It Pictures the Lord, as He was Crushed and Beaten

John 12:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

Isaiah 53:5, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

2. It Pictures the Lord, as He was Sifted

John 8:46, "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?"

There was no impurity in Jesus. This bread was baked without leaven, for leaven, in the Bible, always is emblematic of evil and sin.

3. It Pictures the Lord, as He was Baked

It was put in the oven and baked, for the fires of God's wrath fell upon that divine loaf, that we might feed upon it. Jesus went through the oven of affliction.

B. THE PORTION OF THE BREAD (LEVITICUS 24:6)

There were 12 loaves for the 12 tribes. This shewbread is for those who name the name of the Lord. Israel, in the Old Testament, pictures the Church, God's people.

C. THE PRECIOSUSNESS OF THE BREAD (LEVITICUS 24:7)

Frankincense speaks of the fragrance, preciousness, and worth of the Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:7, "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,"

D. THE PARTAKERS OF THE BREAD (LEVITICUS 24:8-9)

1 Peter 2:9, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:"

Revelation 5:10, "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

The Sabbath pictures Christ, who died in agony, that we might cease from our works and rest forever in Him. He is our continual, perpetual Sabbath.

III. THE SATISFACTION OF THE TABLE

A. BREAD IS FOOD TO SUSTAIN US

The bread represents Jesus. We feed upon Him when we read the Word.

John 6:53, "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."

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."

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."

B. BREAD IS FELLOWSHIP TO ENTERTAIN US

1. Fellowship with One Another

In the Bible, when you think of the breaking of bread, you think of fellowship.

Acts 2:42, "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

Ecclesiastes 4:9, "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour."

Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

2. Fellowship with the Lord

Revelation 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."

First, He comes in, as the guest, because that's the only way He'll ever come in; when you invite Him in, when you open the door. But once you let Him in, then He becomes the host. You are invited to sit at His table and sup with Him.

C. BREAD IS FULLNESS TO MAINTAIN US (LEVITICUS 24:8)

This bread was not to run out. This contrasts the breads of this world which always runs out. The prodigal son illustrates this well, as he ate of the bread of this world:

Luke 15:16-20, "16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. 17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. 20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."

1 Peter 2:22, "But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire."