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The Shores Scrolls

Connecting the weekend sermon to the rest of your week™

Series: Audience with the Almighty

Message: Feeding on the Bread of Life

Scripture: Exodus 25:23 - 30

Have you ever walked by a bakery when the fresh bread or a new batch of cookies was just coming out of the oven? Can you remember the sweet aroma that filled the store and drifted outside each time the door opened? Some form of bread is a necessary staple of life.

This was especially true for the people of Israel as they traveled around the desert for forty years. Every morning, six days a week, they collected the bread that God provided for them for their daily sustenance. So when it came time to set up the Tabernacle of God, it was a clear lesson illustrated by the requirement of providing the showbread, that God was their sustainer and provider.

Fast forward to the New Testament times and Jesus recalls to the people's memory this historical event but adds an additional spiritual insight, when He states, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (John 6:32, 33)

Big Idea

God as our Sustainer and Provider is the central truth of the Table of Showbread, being the giver of true life through the true bread from heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Insight

Even though bread (food) is absolutely necessary for physical life. The larger lesson is quoted by Jesus citing Deut. 8:3, "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

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Day 1: READ What does it say?

Exodus 25:23 - 30

“You shall make a table of acacia wood. Two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. ²⁴ You shall overlay it with pure gold and make a molding of gold around it. ²⁵ And you shall make a rim around it a handbreadth wide, and a molding of gold around the rim. ²⁶ And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and fasten the rings to the four corners at its four legs. ²⁷ Close to the frame the rings shall lie, as holders for the

poles to carry the table. ²⁸ You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, and the table shall be carried with these. ²⁹ And you shall make its plates and dishes for incense, and its flagons and bowls with which to pour drink offerings; you shall make them of pure gold. ³⁰ And you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me regularly. Exodus 25:23-30

Now that you've read the text, write down some observations about it.

According to Lev. 24:5-9, how many loaves were to be placed before the Lord?

What were the materials used to build the table?

What was built into the corners of the table? Why?

Circle in the text what other items were made to serve on the table.

According to Exodus 37:10-16, what were the additional items used for?

Gleaning from our passages, how many items were to be on the table?

According to Lev. 24:5-9, how often was the bread to be changed?

What was done with the old bread?

According to Lev. 24:5-9, what was put on top of each stack of bread?

Table of the Showbread

Overlaid with pure gold, the table was first created to be used in the Tabernacle to hold the Bread of the Presence, also referred to as the Showbread. An important piece of furniture recreated for use in Solomon's temple and again for the second temple, the Table of the Showbread may have been one of the Jewish treasures lost to the Romans during the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

Twelve freshly baked loaves of bread were placed on the Table each Sabbath by the priests. The week-old loaves were then eaten by the priests in a holy place (Lev. 24:5-9).

Seasoned with salt, the incense was a blend of sweet spices with pure frankincense made from a recipe given to Moses by the Lord (Ex. 30:34-36).

During the offerings of the new moon, drink offerings of wine were included with the burnt offerings of bulls, and rams (Nu 28:11-15).

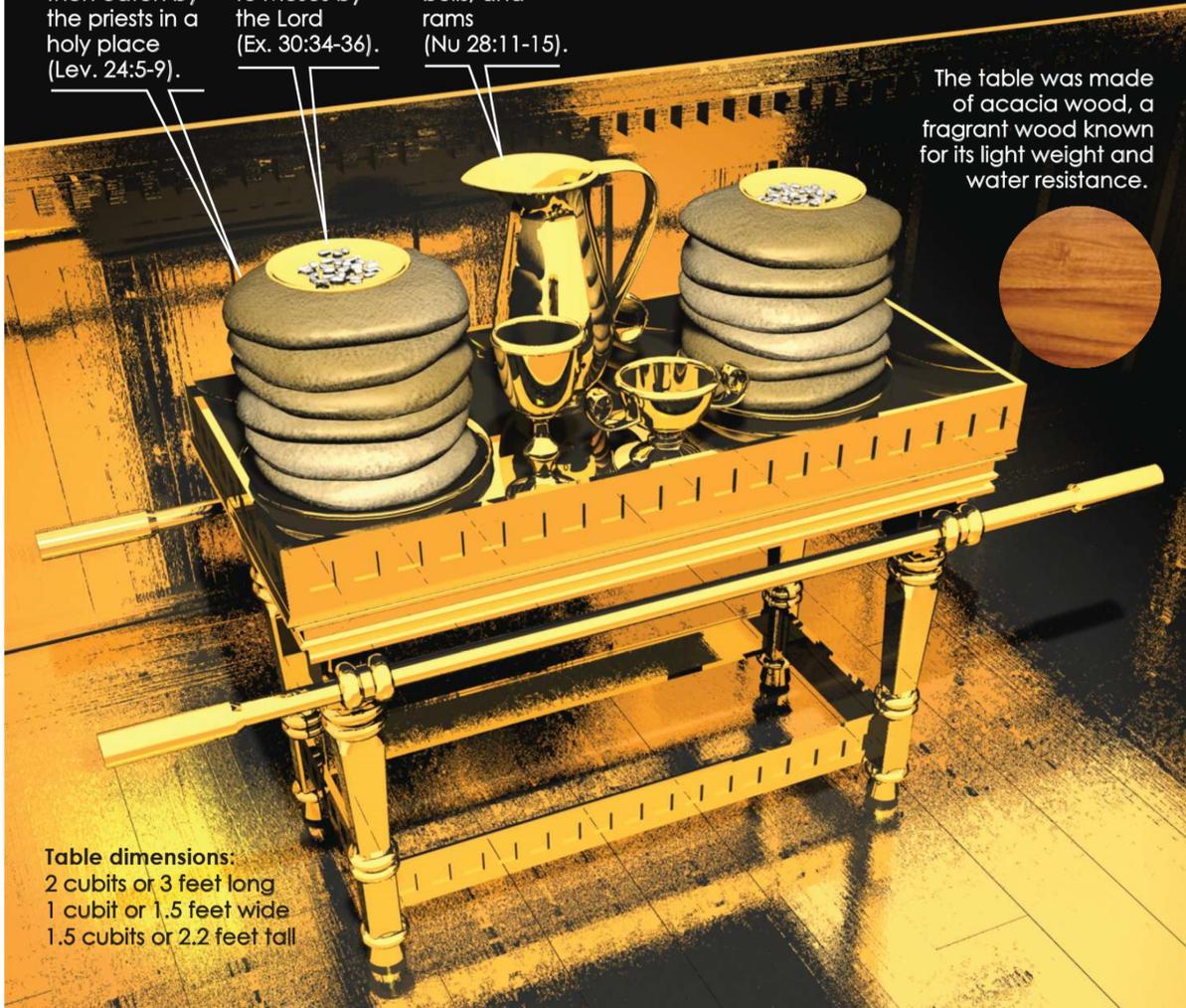
The table appears on the Arch of Titus, a Roman monument commemorating the sack of Jerusalem.



The table was made of acacia wood, a fragrant wood known for its light weight and water resistance.



Table dimensions:
2 cubits or 3 feet long
1 cubit or 1.5 feet wide
1.5 cubits or 2.2 feet tall



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Day 2: REFLECT What does it mean?

1. Reflect on the purpose, role, and function of the Table of Showbread.
2. Based on the number of loaves placed on the table, what do they most likely represent? What would the bread most likely represent? (could be more than one item)
3. Based on the symbolism of the Table and its objects, what principles can we carry forward and apply in the life of a believer today?
4. Especially in the Old Testament, bread was a source of life, how does this principle integrate into the spiritual life of a believer today?
5. Why would the Lord instruct Moses to put spices on top of the bread, think about what this possibly represents?

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Day 3: RESPOND How does it apply to me?

1. How did God make himself known to you through this passage(s)? What did you learn about Him?
2. What specifically is God asking you to do from this study of Scripture? Is there a promise to claim, a sin to avoid, an example to follow, or a command to obey?
3. How do the truths in this study of Scripture apply to . . .

You personally?

The Church?

The world around you?

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Day 4: RECORD your thoughts

Use this space to journal your thoughts about the passage and what God is showing you to change in your life.

Day 5: RECALL the memory verse

Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” John 6:32, 33 ESV

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Life Group discussion questions

1. What was the purpose of the bread? Did it symbolize anything?
2. How does Jesus fulfill the type represented by the bread of the Tabernacle?
3. When the priests ate the bread at the end of the week, it could symbolize God having a Fellowship meal with His people. Explain why. (cf. Rev.3:20)
4. The bread of the Presence (25:30) symbolized that the fruit of our labors comes from and belongs to God. Why would Israel need this daily reminder?
5. How can we carry on the tradition of the bread of the Presence, reminding ourselves that all we have comes from God?

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How to Use This Resource

The Shores Scrolls is a spiritual formation tool that helps you connect the weekend sermon to the rest of your week. It is designed for individual study, small group interaction, and family conversation around God's word.

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Mission

Making disciples of Jesus Christ who go and make disciples

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