

# The Sanctuary – Holy Place - The Table of Shewbread II

## ST Series 15

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### Table – Symbolized Christ (Exodus 25:24,25; 37:12)

*Historical Note:* Josephus, who watched Titus pillage the temple at Jerusalem, described this piece of furniture. “It had feet also, the lower half of which were complete feet, but the upper parts towards the table were wrought into a square form.” (*Antiquities, III:vi:6*) These cabriole legs, resembling the back legs of a sheep, are used in French Provincial, and some English Queen Anne and American furniture.

Did this stylized animal form hint at the Lamb Who bears in His body the bread of life? Christ is not only the royal Host who spreads this feast of love for His friends, He is the Bread and Wine upon the table.

### Table Moved Wherever King Chose

Four gold rings were fixed under the corners of the table-top, on its shorter sides. Gold-encased poles were passed through these for easy portage (Ex.25:26-28). This arrangement ensured the table was carried “forward.” Its mobility revealed the graciousness and concern of God. Wherever He led His people His meal was ready for them. The Psalmist sensed this in joy: “Thou preparest a table before me, . . . my cup runneth over” (Ps.23:5).

The Lord ordered Moses to “put the table . . . upon the side of the Tabernacle \_\_\_\_\_” (Ex 40:22). This site is an important symbol. Before creation “the sides of the north” signaled Lucifer’s coveted place (Isa. 14.13). Century after century the adversaries of Israel, directed by Satan, invaded the Promised Land from the north (cf. Jer 1:13-15; 4:6; 6:1; 47:2; 50:3; &c.). Did David perceive the import of this location in his observation that God’s “table” was spread for him “in [the] presence of mine enemies” (Psalm 23:5)? Facing Israel’s antagonists at the “north” of the tabernacle, this covenant meal pictures our Saviour’s confidence in His power to defend His people and supply them in every emergency.

Webster remind us that our word “Lord” is derived from the Saxon root meaning “keeper of the bread,” while “lady” springs from a stem suggesting “kneader of the bread.” How carefully our Lord has preserved the Bread of Life! How generously He has provided it for famished souls through the ages. “In the fullness of the \_\_\_\_\_” (Gal 4:4) the Bread of life, was born in Bethlehem, “the house of \_\_\_\_\_,” of the lady of Nazareth, the “kneader” of the Bread. From His birth His adversaries struck, and the heathen raged (Ps.2:1,3), venting their hatred upon Him throughout His life. At last “the corn of wheat” allowed Himself to be slain (John 12:24) and buried to provide Himself as the Bread of life for a famishing world.

## The Bread on the Table (Leviticus 24: 5)

“Thou shalt take fine flour, and bake \_\_\_\_\_ cakes thereof:” (vs.5)

These large cakes provided bountifully for the priests, Aaron and his four sons (Ex.28:1), who represented the twelve tribes. Nothing was ever eaten in the Holy Place; but in the court.

The bread was *broken* and *eaten* with the wine by the priests throughout the week. This is a beautiful illustration of the truth that if at all our meals throughout the week, after expressing heartfelt thanks for the food, we eat and drink to the glory of God—eating and drinking only that which will nourish the body, and thus dedicating to God all the strength thus received.

The Lord required these twelve loaves to be placed “before My faces” (Ex.25:30). So the shewbread is called “the bread of faces,” for the Father looks upon His Son with many expressions, all of them glorious (Prov. 8:30). “Face” stands for presence or personality. In Jesus we see all the loving faces of His Father, beaming with justice and mercy, power and compassion, even tears.

The light of the Menorah “continually” (Lev 24:2, 4, cf vrs.5,6; cf 2 Chron 13:11) streamed upon the bread. The radiance of the Shekinah also embraced the loaves in splendor to display the Son dwelling within His Father’s glory. They were called “shewbread” because they showed the concern of His visage. “Before the worlds were framed,” Jesus sang, “I was by Him, and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him” (Prov.8:22, 23, 30)

### *Spiritual Application—*

Just as bread must be eaten to meet human physical needs, so if we would truly appreciate it, we must “taste and see that the Lord is good” (Ps.32:8). It must be appropriated personally. The nutrients in the Bread of life are absorbed only by feeding upon Jesus through a daily study of the Scriptures, and allowing Him to live in our hearts through the Spirit.

Like the “bread of faces”, the revealed word is our photograph of Christ. . . O that workers in every line of the service of God would eat the leaves of the tree of life, which are for the healing of the nations” (*Bible Training School, March 1903*). These leaves represent the promises of Christ (MH 65.4).