

## The Table of Presence Bread

*"Make a table of acacia wood — two cubits long, a cubit wide and a cubit and a half high. Overlay it with pure gold and make a gold molding around it. Also make around it a rim a handbreadth wide and put a gold molding on the rim. Make four gold rings for the table and fasten them to the four corners, where the four legs are. The rings are to be close to the rim to hold the poles used in carrying the table. Make the poles of acacia wood, overlay them with gold and carry the table with them. And make its plates and dishes of pure gold, as well as its pitchers and bowls for the pouring out of offerings. Put the bread of the Presence on this table to be before me at all times."* - Exo. 25:23-30

*"Take fine flour and bake twelve loaves of bread, using two-tenths of an ephah for each loaf. Set them in two rows, six in each row, on the table of pure gold before the LORD. Along each row put some pure incense as a memorial portion to represent the bread and to be an offering made to the LORD by fire. This bread is to be set out before the LORD regularly, Sabbath after Sabbath, on behalf of the Israelites, as a lasting covenant. It belongs to Aaron and his sons, who are to eat it in a holy place, because it is a most holy part of their regular share of the offerings made to the LORD by fire."* - Leviticus 24:5-9

### The Table of Presence Bread

#### The Design

- Size: 3 feet long x 1. ft. wide x 2.3 ft. high.
- Made of wood overlaid with gold.

#### The Placement

- Stood on the right side of the tabernacle.

#### The Usage

- Twelve loaves of bread were placed on the table and were changed every Sabbath.
- The bread was sprinkled with frankincense.
- The priests, who said that it was warm and fresh after seven days, ate the bread each week.

### The History of the Table

*"Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find." But the priest answered David, "I don't have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here — provided the men have kept themselves from women." David replied, "Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever I set out. The men's things are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!" So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the LORD and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away."*

- 1 Samuel 21:3-6

### The Meaning of the Table of Bread

1. It was a picture of man's continual fellowship and covenant with God. What did "presence" mean?

*Note that other gods were offered food to eat.*

2. It was a picture of the fellowship of God's people with each other.
3. It was a picture of man's dependence on God and also God's provision for man.

*"He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD."*  
- Deuteronomy 8:3

4. It was a picture of Jesus Christ.

*"Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."* - John 6:35

*"I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."*  
- John 6:48-51

5. It is ultimately then a picture of Holy Communion.

*"For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."*  
- 1 Corinthians 11:26

### The Lessons We Learn

1. God wants to be in the presence of His people.
2. It delights God when His people are in fellowship with Him and with each other.

*"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ."*  
- 1 John 1:3

3. We need to recognize our dependence on God and give thanks.

*"For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving."*  
- 1 Timothy 4:4

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