

The Table of Shewbread (Bread of the Presence)



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. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. 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. 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. Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. 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. And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway. Exodus 25:23-30

The Table of Shewbread held 12 loaves of Unleavened Bread (two stacks of six) along with frankincense and (probably) grape juice. The bread was on the table all through the week but it was replaced with fresh bread on Sabbath. We are not told specifically that there was a continual supply of wine there, but since there were instructions for the utensils for containing and serving it (Ex. 25:29), we can assume that it was included.

What did the 12 loaves of bread represent?
Genesis 49:28

This was the application for Israel, but the Table with unleavened bread had a much broader meaning. What did this Table of Shewbread represent in the Gospel?
John 6:35

Jesus is the Bread of Heaven. It is He that gives us spiritual food. What did Jesus compare to bread?
John 6:51

There was probably juice on the table, too. What does the Table with bread and juice remind us of?
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

This service that Paul is describing is what we call Communion now, but it was called Passover in Jesus'

time. (Passover will be discussed in a later lesson.) His body that was broken and His blood that was shed for us are represented in the emblems on both the Table of Shewbread and the Communion table.

What did Jesus give as the reason for eating the bread and drinking the juice of Communion?
1 Corinthians 11:24, 25

He wants us to always remember what He has done for us.

What kind of food should we make great effort to obtain?
John 6:27

What is promised to those who truly long for righteousness?
Matthew 5:6

Who satisfies our spiritual hunger?
Psalm 107:8, 9

Do you hunger and thirst for God's kingdom and righteousness as much as you do for food? What if you took the same amount of time for eating food as you do for personal, devotional time with God (5 minutes, 15 minutes occasionally)? Would you be healthy and strong? What happens if you fill up with something other than good nourishing food? You aren't hungry. We are continually bombarded with entertainment and excitement in all the media and it is easy to get filled up with that and not be hungry for the **REAL, GOOD QUALITY** spiritual food God wants to give us. Don't fill your mind with "junk food" and "empty calories" so that you aren't hungry for God's Word. He promises that we will be filled if we truly hunger for the nourishment He continually provides. The Shewbread symbolized the **nourishment of the Word of God, and Jesus, the Bread of Life.**

Will you choose to do this today? Make a covenant with God to choose the Bread that came from Heaven—Jesus.