

6 -- THE TABLE OF SHOWBREAD (Our Daily Bread)

Turning now from the Golden Lampstand where we learned about the Holy Spirit and His work, we continue our walk through the sanctuary. On the north side of the holy place was found the *table of showbread*. Moses described God's instruction for its construction when he wrote the following: "He made the table of acacia wood; two cubits was its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and a half its height. And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made a molding of gold all around it. Also he made a frame of a handbreadth all around it, and made a molding of gold for the frame all around it. And he cast for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that were at its four legs. The rings were close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. And he made the poles of acacia wood to bear the table, and overlaid them with gold." (Exodus. 37:10-15)

Special instructions were given as to what was to be placed on the table and when. "And you shall take fine flour and bake twelve cakes with it. Two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each cake. You shall set them in two rows, six in a row, on the pure gold table before the LORD. ... Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually." (Leviticus 24: 5-8) It was called showbread, or "bread of presence," and it was renewed every Sabbath day by the priests. This bread had a very significant meaning.

1. How does the bread point us to Jesus?

John 6:35 Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life...

Note: The showbread is to lift our minds up to Him whom we depend upon for our physical and spiritual food.

2. What is it that Jesus wants us to feed upon to maintain our spiritual health?

Matthew 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Jeremiah 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them.

Note. Just as physical food taken daily gives strength to the body, spiritual food taken daily gives strength to one spiritually. Thus the bread points us to Jesus and His word, the Bible. The table of showbread is the 2nd component in the sanctification process.

3. Since the bread points to Jesus and His word, what impact will it have on my life if I prayerfully study it?

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Peter 1:4 ... by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature ...

Note: Yes. It is not enough to read the Bible as one would read an ordinary book. We must meditate on what we read, and then apply what we learn to our lives. When food is mixed with digestive juices it is brought to a form where the body can assimilate it into flesh and bone. So the word of God must be brought into our innermost lives until Jesus is a part of us. "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Galatians 4:19; Colossians 1:27)

4. How much of the Scriptures are we commanded to study and believe?

Luke 24:25 ... believe all that the prophets have spoken.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Note: The divine revelations of God are contained in the writings of the Old and New Testaments. The Old and New Testament constitute “*All Scripture.*”

5. Whom did Jesus say the Scriptures and prophecies reveal?

Luke 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

John 5:39 ... search the scriptures; for ... they are they which testify of me.

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ,...

Note: The central figure in all of Scripture is Jesus. This captivating series will cover many subjects of the sanctuary, but keep in mind that the primary focus of the Bible is Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

6. What is another name used in the Bible for Jesus?

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, ...

Note: The Word of God is powerful. God spoke and His word brought into existence the world, and all creation, and the Bible is called the Word of God!!

7. What kind of people did God use to write the Bible?

2 Peter 1:21 ... holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. ...

8. How important should Bible study be to the Christian?

Job 23:12 ... I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Note: The devil hates the Bible and will do anything to prevent people from reading or believing it. He knows that the Bible exposes his plans to deceive the human race. So don't be surprised if Satan attempts to distract you from this series of lessons or tries to get you preoccupied with other things. God will make a way for those who seek to know the truth to find it.

9. Who helps us understand the Bible?

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

10. What must I do to be certain the Holy Spirit is guiding my Bible study?

Luke 11:9 ... I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; ...

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?

John 7:17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, ...

Note: Part of the work of the Holy Spirit is to help us understand the truth of the scriptures. This is why we should always ask the Holy Spirit to guide us before we open God's Book. I can be certain the Holy Spirit is guiding my Bible study if (1) I ask Him to guide me, and (2) I am willing to accept and follow truth as He reveals it to me.

11. How does prayerful study of the Word help us?

Psalm 119:11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, ... and it shall be given him.

12. What method of Bible study do the Scriptures recommend?

Isaiah 28:10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, there a little.

1 Corinthians 2:13 ... but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

2 Peter 1:20 ... knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation.

Note: We must lay aside our own preconceived ideas and study the Bible by reading everything in the Scriptures on any given subject ("here a little, and there a little") and by comparing all the verses for input. We should let the Bible speak for itself and to take it just as it reads. When this is done, the truth always comes through clearly. This is how Jesus convinced the two disciples on the road to Emmaus that He was indeed the Messiah (Luke 24:27).

13. What will studying the Scriptures do for us?

2 Timothy 3:15 ... you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Note: The Scriptures help us understand God's great plan of salvation--the most important information ever given to mortals.

14. According to Jesus, where do we find the truth?

John 14:6 Jesus said unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."

John 17:17 ... thy word is truth.

Note: Here we find that "truth" is more than some intellectual assent, it is Jesus Himself! "Truth" (Jesus) is found in God's Word--the Bible. Biblical teachings bring us closer to Jesus, but if we reject Bible truth what are we really rejecting? The truth about everything that really matters is found in Scripture. Studying and following its counsel sets people free (John 8:32) and brings them happy, abundant lives in Jesus (John 15:11).

15. What warnings regarding Bible study are given in the Scriptures?

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show thyself approved unto God, ... rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Peter 3:16 ... in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

Note: "Rightly dividing the word of truth" means to interpret it correctly, truthfully and honestly. There is great danger in twisting Scripture to make it say what we want it to say. What I say about the Bible matters little. What counts is what Scripture says about itself.

16. How should we test all religious teachings and doctrines?

1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Isaiah 8:20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Note: All religious teachings must be tested by the Bible. If any teaching does not clearly agree with the Scriptures, it is false and should be abandoned.

17. What happened when Jesus explained the Scriptures to His two discouraged disciples on the road to Emmaus?

Luke 24:32 ... Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?

18. After these two disciples knew that Jesus was alive and heard Him explain the prophecies, what did they do?

Luke 24:33 So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together.

Note: One of the first reactions these disciples had after hearing Jesus explain the Scriptures was a burning desire to share the good news with others. We hope it is also your desire to invite your friends to join you in this dynamic series of Bible studies.

Your Response to Jesus

Do you desire to fully understand and follow the Scriptures? At this very moment, won't you ask Jesus to prompt and strengthen you to take daily time to study His word to know Him and His ways better?

ANSWER: _____