

LESSON #21 SANCTUARY STUDIES

THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD

INTRODUCTION

All italics are in original text. All other emphases are authors unless noted. All Scripture are from the K.J.V. Bible unless stated.

We are well within the holy place—the sanctification room or trysting room to make engagement with our God. Here we are offered wonderful opportunities for advancement toward the ultimate goal of our journey, our marriage to the Lamb! The bride must not have any spot or wrinkle or any such thing. In the trysting room sanctification is symbolized in the golden table the golden altar, and the golden candlestick. Sanctification is truly a golden experience for the Child of God. Here we have the opportunity for true Cristian growth and character perfection. This is one more stage in our growing up “unto a perfect man, or woman, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Eph. 4:3. It is the putting on of the mind of Christ!

PHILLIPIANS 2:5. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

Let us pray:

Holy Father, we need Your spirit that we might understand the beauty of your throne and what it means to us. Please bestow the holy spirit upon all who study this lesson. Forgive our sins and cleans us from all iniquity. We ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.

EXODUS 25:23-30; 37:10-16. “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.”

NOTE: The table was made of shittim wood overlaid with gold, it was the place of God’s throne (in the sides of the north Isa. 14:13), prior to the beginning of the judgment in 1844. We know from previous lessons that wood represents the human or flesh of the human, and gold represents the almighty, or divinity. Here, it no doubt, represents the human mind influenced by the divine. It is in the mind where understanding, wisdom, victory, acceptance of truth, and the ability to learn takes place. This has to be the conscious part or frontal lobe where reasoning takes place. The mind controls every function of the body, both conscious and unconscious. The conscious controls the movements of the body, the unconscious the breathing, the blinking of the eyes, the heartbeat, and other auto-functions of the body. In fact, the body does nothing without the brain!

Everything in the sanctuary was portable indicating that God wanted to be present with us in all our travels and a part of what we do. Staves were placed through the rings for moving each article of furniture from place to place. The rings represent the binding hands of God keeping the bread of life ever present in our hearts. The rings also represent the holy spirit, which will always bring to mind the things needful for our defense and salvation, for our continuing victory over sin, Satan, and the world, (See lesson #18, page 4, left hand column top of page for discussion about rings).

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Notice, the grate in the midst of the altar of burnt offerings had 4 brass rings to support the grate in the midst of the altar, or one and one-half cubits above the bottom of the altar.

EXODUS 27:4, 5. “And thou shalt make for it a grate of network *of* brass; and upon the net shalt thou make **four brasen rings in the four corners thereof**. And thou shalt put it under the compass of the altar beneath, **that the net may be even to the midst of the altar.**”

NOTE: This altar was three cubits high, the net being in the midst of it would make the net one and one-half cubits from the base of the altar. The table of shewbread was also one and one-half cubits high. This, no doubt, mandated that reconciliation and justification found at the altar of burnt offerings, and sanctification and victory found at the table of shewbread, are of equal importance in the Christian life! Therefore, the work of Christ in the holy place is just as important as His work in the most holy place. Both are a work of atonement. The first apartment work of Christ removes the sin from the penitent and prepares him for the final atonement, which is the removal of the memory, the experience, the knowledge and record of sin! This dual work of Christ, is of equal importance for the total cleansing of God’s people. This shows that Christ’s death on the cross and His work of cleansing the soul temple portrayed in the two apartments of the sanctuary are of equal importance also. We cannot have justification without sanctification first; the one without the other would be only half redemption which would be no redemption at all!

On the table of shewbread there were two crowns.

EXODUS 37:11, 12. “And he overlaid it with pure gold, and made thereunto a crown of gold round about. Also, he made thereunto a border of an handbreadth round about; and made a crown of gold for the border thereof round about.”

NOTE: There were two borders or crowns of gold a hand breadth apart or about 4 ½ inches apart. This border was evidently to hold the utensils “which was upon the table.” Ex. 37:16. There was also two stacks of six loaves of bread placed on the table. One crown was around the table proper, where the loaves of bread were placed, and the other crown affixed to a shelf 4 ½ inches wide outside the first crown. A crown represents kinship or royalty. It represents the divine presence being manifested at the table of shewbread. The crowns and the loaves of bread, being two, would represent the Father and His son the Word of God as of divine origin. It represents Christ Himself as the word of God, and the Bible is that Word! It is to be the rule of life for the Christian.

The two crowns and two stacks of bread also speak of the dual atonement. The wine represents Christ’s death. The bread represents Christ’s life on this earth. As the bread was eaten each week by the priest on the Sabbath and was assimilated and became part of his being, so also is the Word of God to be studied and assimilated into our very mind and become a part of our life! The first crown represents justification, the second is sanctification, this represents the split atonement.

EXODUS 37:16 “And he made the vessels which *were* upon the table, his dishes, and his spoons, and his bowls, and his covers to cover withal, *of* pure gold.”

NOTE: Moffett renders this text thusly, “The dishes, the saucers, the flagons, and the chalices, for pouring the libations, were of pure gold.” Evidently wine, the pure grape juice, was kept on the table along with the bread. More than likely these things were kept on the shelf outside the inner crown. The bread was placed in the center of the table.

EXODUS 25:30, “And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway.”

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NOTE: There were four ingredients combined to make the shewbread for the table. They were fine flour, (all unevenness and all coarse particles were removed), salt of the covenant, oil, and water. No leaven was ever to be used in any burnt offering to the lord.

1ST CORENTHIANS 5:6-8. “Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.”

NOTE: Paul is telling the Christians to keep the Passover. Does that include the Christians of today also? Any offering made by fire to the Lord was most holy. the bread was backed with fire, and was an offering to the Lord therefore, it could not have leavening. Leavening represents sin, the bread, representing Christ could not have anything that represented sin because that would not represent Christ. We are to be like Jesus in all things. For this reason, we must endure the grinding process until all coarseness and unevenness has been removed from our characters. With Christ there was no unevenness, He was always the same, one days walk never clashed with another days walk. In Him every grace was perfected, none in excess, none out of place, none wanting. Firmness did not degenerate into obstinance, nor calmness into indifference.

The oil represents Christ’s work through the holy spirit. We must receive Christ as the Word of God; the Bible is that Word. The oil is set on fire in the candlestick and gives light (understanding and knowledge with wisdom). This light is the Word being opened to our understanding. It is the fire of the holy spirit that gives this knowledge of the word

to our mind bringing conviction of the truth home to us.

MB 112:3. “We receive Christ through His word, and the Holy Spirit is given to open the word of God to our understanding, and bring home its truths to our hearts. We are to pray day by day that as we read His word, God will send His Spirit to reveal to us the truth that will strengthen our souls for the day’s need.” {MB 112.3}.

NOTE: Thusly we become partakers of the divine nature and attributes of Christ. These attributes are then manifested by us in our interactions with others and in the life, we live!

The salt is a preservative, a symbol of incorruption. The Word of God will preserve the Christian from false doctrine as well as corrupt manners. Salt also represents perpetuity. The Christian who allows this salt to mingle and amalgamate in his heart becoming part of his being will be preserved and live forever. He will never turn back from walking with Christ!

2ND CRONICLES 23:5. “Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel **gave the kingdom over Israel to David forever, *even* to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt?”**

NOTE: God gave David the kingdom forever “by a covenant of salt.” One of the ways salt is used is as a preservative, and to keep people from slipping on icy roads and walkways. It is used to give bland food flavor. So also, will the Word of God keep us from falling from God’s grace, if obeyed, as we travel down life’s slippery road. The Word is also like the flavor of salt, which makes God’s Word exciting, acceptable, pleasant and enjoyable to the mind.

CLOSSIANS 4:6. “Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

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MARK 9:49, 50. “For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. Salt *is* good: but if the salt has lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.”

MATTHEW 5:13. “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

NOTE: As we share our faith we must do so without corruption of mind. We must have sincerity of heart, with peace and good will. Our attitude must be of friendship and hospitality, and our speech alive with grace—never unkind or critical. When we mix these graces with our efforts to spread the Word of God to others then we will become the “salt of the earth!”

The **water** used in the shewbread represents the cleansing power of the Word of God.

PSALMS 119:9. “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word.”

THE WORD SANCTIFIES

Sanctify means to make sacred and holy, to set apart for sacred or holy use.

EPHESIANS 5:26. “That he might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) with the washing of water by the word.”

JOHN 15:3. “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

NOTE: Obedience to the Word of God, represented at the table of shewbread, sanctifies the soul. “Sanctify them through the truth; thy Word is truth.” This is the fine flower, the first ingredient in the bread. It is the Word of God!

1ST PETER 1:22, 23. “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye* love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

NOTE: The Word of God represents not only the written word, but also the living Word as well, which is Jesus! These can be used interchangeably. When the written Word of God has fully been assimilated by the individual and has become manifested in his life, then will the living testimony be revived. Each one that allows this process to take place within will be the “living Word.” they will be one with Christ as He is one with the Father!

JOHN 17:21-23. “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”

JOHN 14:11, 21-24. “Believe me that I *am* in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. VS. 21-24. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.”

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2ND PETER 1:4-11. “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, **give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”**

ACTS: 20:32. “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, **which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”**

NOTE: The influence of the Word upon our lives destroys the carnal life. It imparts a new life—the life of Jesus, the Bread of life, which is the Word. It “is able to build you up, and give you an (abundant) inheritance among all them which are sanctified.” Study to show yourself approved of God, so that you are not ashamed when the time of judgment comes.

2ND 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

RH MARCH 25, 1902:8. “The keeping of all the

commandments of God is sanctification. Proving yourselves obedient children to God’s word is sanctification. **The word of God is to be our guide, not the opinions or ideas of men.** Let those who would be truly sanctified **search the word of God with patience, with prayer, and with humble contrition of soul.** Let them remember that **Jesus prayed. “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”** {RH March 25, 1902, par. 8}.

JOHN 6:51. “I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

JOHN 6 53-58, 61. “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.”

V, 63. It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.”

NOTE: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: “the word that I speak unto you they are...life.” It is the Word of God, written (on paper, the Bible) and living (Jesus), that brings or gives life! Jesus gave His life, His flesh, so we could have eternal life, and justification. God gave the written Word on paper that we might assimilate it into our lives through the process of the holy spirit’s influence. In this way the Word becomes the Living Testimony within each of us (just like it was

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in Christ). This process of assimilating the Word of God into our lives so completely that we are living without spot or wrinkle or any such thing is called sanctification. Both Christ's death and this sanctification are of equal importance for our salvation. Without Christ's death we cannot be justified. Without His work in the heavenly sanctuary, called the atonement, we cannot be sanctified or made perfect without sin that we might enter the abode of heaven. This is "the washing of the water by the Word" Eph 5:6.

There is one more thing that must happen before the bread is ready. It must be baked. Are we not to pass through the furnace of affliction? Just as the three colors at the gate represent affliction—red meaning sacrifice; we are to sacrifice our lives for Him; blue represents obedience to God in all His Word. when sacrifice and obedience are combined within us the royal color blue is developed! So, God's children, through sacrifice and obedience, are made the royal family of God!

2ND TIMOTHY 3:12. "Yea, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**" (from the Devil as well as from men).

NOTE: So also, the four ingredients when combined and baked in a furnace become a loaf of bread which is what Christ is said to be. Are we not to be one with Christ and His Father? In allowing this process to manifest itself in us we truly become one with Christ and His Father. This actually becomes a reality in him that endures to the end!

LEVITICUS 24:7. "And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon *each* row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, *even* an offering made by fire unto the LORD."

NOTE: The frankincense has an aromatic aroma that is pleasing to the sense of smell. Especially when it is burnt.

EXODUS 30:34. "And the LORD said unto Moses, Take unto thee sweet spices, stacte, and onycha, and galbanum; *these* sweet spices with pure frankincense: of each shall there be a like *weight.*"

NOTE: State (oil of myrrh), onycha (?), galbanum (giant fennel), and pure frankincense (risen from the *Boswellia carteri* tree). I could not find what onycha was. Equal portions of these aromatic ingredients were combined to make the frankincense both for the altar of incense and for the two stacks of shew bread. The frankincense was placed on the loaves of shewbread on golden saucers showing that once the word of God, the Sword of the spirit, has been assimilated into the mind of the individual and is a part of his being, it is then that his life becomes very attractive and pleasant to all he comes in contact with. The aroma of the Christian life may be attractive to the unbeliever and draw them to Christ but if that aroma is rejected it becomes repulsive to the lost because it causes conviction of wrong doing. And so, the world is either drawn to or repelled from Christ. To those who are saved it is attractive, to those who are lost it is repulsive.

The twelve loaves of bread on the table of shewbread were replaced each Sabbath by the incoming priest. The frankincense was burnt on the altar of incense. The loaves of bread were eaten by the priest during the following week. If any was left over after that it was burnt on the altar of burnt offerings in the courtyard. "For it is most holy of the offerings of the Lord made by fire. Lev. 24:9. This bread is called the "continual" bread, Numbers 4:7. And Christ instructed Moses that the bread was to be "before me always" Ex. 25:30.

Does this not teach us that the study of the Bible, the bread of life should be continual, a constant partaking of the bread of life? We are to eat and digest the Word of God continually.

This daily partaking of the holy bread by the priest

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is a representation that our continual study of the Word is the first essential to growing up into perfection of character. This is essential if we are to keep from sin.

PSALMS 119:11. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

NOTE: There is no substitute for earnest study of the Word, it is fundamental, and it cannot be supplemental. As Christ, the Word, was made flesh so is the Word to be made flesh within us. We must not only know the Word; we must be the Word!

Let us pray:

Holy father, may we understand the great desire You have for each of us. Please bestow Your mind to each one that we might understand the things of God. forgive our sins and create a clean heart within us. I ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

Your brother in Christ

Virgil Prindle