

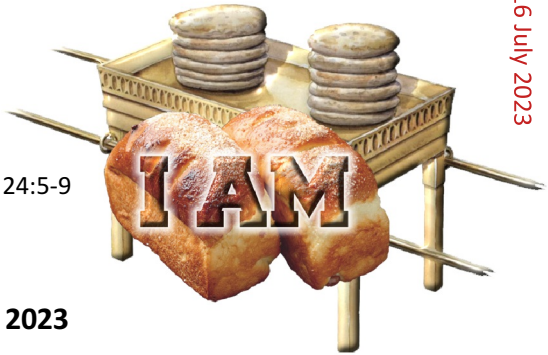
# I AM the Bread of Life

## The Table of Shewbread

Exodus 25:23-30; Leviticus 24:5-9

2 Samuel 9:1-11

John 6:47-58



## Pressing Forward into 2023

- Catechism
- Meditation

## Eternal Purpose

### What We Have Learned So Far

→ Six common threads throughout the details.

### Only for Priests!

- Those who have been at the Altar of Sacrifice (the Cross) and the Laver (continuous cleansing of the filth of the flesh and spirit) - examination, confession and repentance. (2 Cor 7:1; 13:5; 1 John 1:8-10)
- Only those reconciled by being at the Brazen Altar and the Laver.
  - Mephibosheth: one time enemy of the king but now sitting at the King's table - reconciled by covenant! (2 Samuel 9:1-10; 1 Samuel 20:14-17)
  - David took the initiative to show kindness - not Mephibosheth.
  - Mephibosheth had to be **brought** to the king - he could not come to the king in his power/ability - he was lame in both feet. KING David commands "his servant" to bring Mephibosheth to himself.

### The Table (Exodus 25:22, 23-30)

- Meaning: Fellowship
  - Standing not sitting
- Table of "Shewbread" literally: "bread of presence"; "bread of faces"- see v. 30 - "And you shall set the showbread on the table *before Me always.*" - acceptance = of Christ and us in Christ (Ephesians 1:6)

- Its construction
  - Wood and Gold - two natures of Christ
  - All the vessels/utensils were made of pure gold.
  - Golden crown (KJV): A picture of Christ in heaven exalted above all names - the King! (Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 6:15; Rev 17:14; 19:16) The Bread is held in place by it's king.
    - ★ (v. 24-25) "handbreadth" - meditate on John 10:28.
- It's position: BEFORE THE LORD on the right side of the Holy Place

## The Bread

- Bread **of God** - Leviticus 21:6, 8, 17, 21, 22; 22:25; **John 6:32-33**.
- Fine Flour - a picture of the sinlessness of Christ (1 John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21) - Bread flour must be ground (Isaiah 28:28).
- Baked - a picture of Christ taking the wrath of God on our behalf.
- Pierced - meaning of "cakes" in Leviticus 24:5. A picture of Christ being pierced for us. (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24)
- Frankincense - a picture of Christ being well-pleasing in the sight of God as His people's Representative, as those **in Him** are acceptable (pleasing) to God. (**Ephesians 1:6**; 5:2; **Matt 3:17**; 12:18; **17:5**; 2 Peter 1:17)
- 12 Cakes - yet ONE BREAD - A picture of Christ and His people being ONE. (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:22-27; 10:17; John 17:21-22)
  - All loaves were identical! All tribes were equal before the Lord. (See Romans 3:22; **Galatians 2:6**; 3:8; Colossians 3:11; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 3:6)
- Replaced every Sabbath - "fresh" food for the priests - John 6:50-59.

## Christ Is the Table

- The table representing the risen Christ, crowned King of kings.
- We have fellowship with God and with each other around Christ - our Table. (1 John 1:3, 6-7; Acts 2:42)
- REMEMBER Mephibosheth sitting at the **King's** table!

## Christ Is the Bread (John 6:32-58)

- ★ Christ is the **TRUE** bread of God come down from Heaven as food for His "royal priests". (John 6:32-35, 41, 48-51)
- ★ One with Christ and one with each other. (John 6:35; 17:21-22; 1 Corinthians 10:17)
- ★ Christ was born in Bethlehem - "house of bread".

★ **Eating and Believing** (John 6:47-51)

- (v. 47) **MOST ASSUREDLY** he who **believes has** everlasting life. Belief is a **fruit** of everlasting life (salvation) **NOT** the cause of it. **MEDITATE ON THIS!!!**
- The verbs “eating” and “drinking” are in the PRESENT, ACTIVE, PARTICIPLE. This is something “royal priests” do themselves, continually, and in OBEDIENCE. Those who do not continually “eat” have NO LIFE in themselves - they are DEAD.
- (v. 51) “If anyone **eats** this bread (ME) he will have life forever.”
- Eating = Believing = Appropriation
  - ★ We need physical food each day. We need to feed on Christ daily.
    - ① Eating is a **necessary** act. Looking at, talking about, philosophizing about, analyzing, debating about bread will never give me the nourishment I **need**. I **must** eat!
    - ② Eating is **responding** to a felt need. When someone is really hungry he **will** eat! Everything else is not important.
    - ③ Eating is an act of **appropriation**. The table may be full of food but it is not until I begin to eat that the food becomes **mine**. Once I eat, the food becomes part of me and nourishes and strengthens me.
    - ④ Eating is a **personal** act. No one can eat for me. If I am to be nourished, strengthened, and live by this bread I must eat.
- Eating and Drinking (John 6:52-53)
  - ★ The Jews are confused by Jesus’ teaching.
    - Did Jesus really mean that He would give His flesh as meat to eat?
  - **Most Assuredly (Verily, Verily; Truly, Truly)** (also vv. 32, 47, 53) Jesus considers this teaching about eating and drinking very important.
  - **“Unless . . .”** (3:3; 3:5; 3:27; 4:48; 6:44; 6:53; 6:65; 12:24; 15:4; 19:11)
- This eating looks back to Genesis 3 where if man *ate* the forbidden fruit he would *die!* Here if we *eat* Christ, we *live*.
- Symbolic drinking in the Bible has to do with *submitting* to the will of GOD. (Consider: John 18:11; Matthew 26:39, 42; Jeremiah 25:15-17, 28)
- **Jesus makes it CLEAR** – Those who **do not** eat **have no life** in them. They are **DEAD**. (Ephesians 2:1, 5; Colossians 2:13; John 3:36; 1 John 5:11-12)

- **Jesus makes it CLEAR** – Those who do eat **have life** in them. They are **ALIVE in Christ**. (Ephesians 2:1, 5; Colossians 2:13; John 3:36; 1 John 5:11-12)

### **Looking Forward to a Table: Our Hope** - Luke 12:35-43

- REMEMBER: The priests ate standing up!
- As long as we are in this world we are obligated to serve God by doing those works (His commands) He appointed to us.
- He is coming again for those who are **eagerly waiting** for Him (Hebrews 12:28; Luke 12:37)
  - Those who have their “waist girded and lamps burning”. (Luke 12:35; Matthew 25:1-10) - those who are **READY!** (Luke 12:40)
  - Those who are busy **doing** the work of the Master. (Luke 12:43)
- ★ To these we are promised that “. . . He (our Master, our Lord) will gird Himself and have us sit down to eat, and He will come and serve us!” (Luke 12:37)

### **Appropriating the Word of God to Ourselves**

- (Romans 15:4) All this was **written** down and preserved for **our** learning. We are to apply to our lives what God has given to us as doctrine (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- God “re-created” us into His image so that we may have fellowship with Him. We are saved unto fellowship with God and God’s people.
- There can be no fellowship with God without continuously “eating and drinking Christ”. This is accomplished by being in His Word continually. As the body **needs** “bread”; the spirit **needs** “bread”.
- There can only be fellowship IN THE HOLY PLACE. This is why God’s special people **pursue** holiness. (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:13-16)
- Our work (obedience) here on earth will go on as long as we are in the world. The race is not easy, but God has given us the “food” to equip us to run with endurance. (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- We are kept by the power of God. (1 Peter 1:5; John 10:28)
- Are you groaning for the time Christ will return and take us home? (Hebrews 9:28; Titus 2:13; Philippians 3:20-21; Luke 12:37; Romans 8:23-25)