

Christ In The Old Testament
“A Table Before Me”
Exodus 35:13; 25:23-30

Introduction:

1. Please Turn With Me In Your Bibles:
 - To Exodus 35 - Where:
 - We Have A Summary Of:
 - All The Different Articles:
 - That Were To Be Used:
 - In The Worship Of The Lord:
 - In The Old Testament Tabernacle!
 - And So - We Are Using:
 - Exodus 35:11-19:
 - As An Outline:
 - In Our Search For Christ:
 - In The Tabernacle!
2. In 35:11:
 - We Are Told About:
 - “The tabernacle, his tent, and his covering, his taches, and his boards, his bars, his pillars, and his sockets!”
 - These Articles Made Up:
 - The Tabernacle Structure Itself!
 - Which Pointed Us To:
 - The Person Of Christ Himself:
 - With His Two Natures:
 - As Both Man & God!
3. In 35:12:
 - Which We Looked At Last Week:
 - We Are Told About:
 - “The ark, and the staves thereof, with the mercy seat, and the vail of the covering!”
 - All Of These Articles:
 - Were Part Of The Holy Of Holies:
 - Which Was The Exclusive Place:
 - Where God Would Fulfill His Purpose For The Tabernacle!
 - The Same Purpose:
 - That God Gave Moses Back In:
 - Exodus 29:42-46 - Which Was:
 - To Meet With His People!
 - To Sanctify His People! And:
 - To Dwell With His People:
 - So That His People:
 - Might Know Him!
- And - All This Was Done:
 - In A 15' Square - Even - Cubed Room:
 - In The Western-Most Part Of The Tabernacle Tent:
 - Just Above The Golden Box & Its Lid:
 - The Ark Of The Covenant & The Mercy-Seat!
 - And - All Of These Objects:
 - Inside This Room:
 - Point Us To Jesus Christ:
 - As The Greatest Treasure:
 - In All The World!
4. Well - Tonight:
 - We Come To 35:13:
 - Where We Are Told About:
 - The table, and his staves, and all his vessels, and the shewbread!”
 - All Of These Articles & Objects:

- Were To Be Placed In:
 - The Eastern Part Of The Tabernacle Tent:
 - Which Faced The Entrance:
 - And Was Twice The Length Of The Holy Of Holies! (30x15)
- This Room - Was Called:
 - The Holy Place - And On The North Side:
 - This Special Table:
 - Was Set Before The Lord:
 - And For His Priests!

5. And - To Get The Details:

- Of These Objects:
 - We Need To Go Back To:
 - Exodus 25:23-30:
 - Where The Lord Gave Moses:
 - These Plans As Well!
 - “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. / 24 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. / 25 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. / 26 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. / 27 Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. / 28 And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. / 29 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. / 30 And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me always!”

6. Now - You Can Find:

- An Artist’s Rendition Of The Table Of Shewbread:
 - On The Back Of Your Message Guide!
 - And - Surely - The Golden Table Itself:
 - Was A Special Object In The Tabernacle!
 - As Matthew Henry Once Wrote:
 - “In The Royal Palace It Was Fit That There Should Be A Royal Table!”
 - And - This Table Truly Was:
 - Fit For A King!
 - But - What The Table Was **Used For**:
 - Is What Made It Even More Special!
 - Because - As We Read In 25:30:
 - The “Shewbread” Was To Be “Set Upon The Table” - “Always!”
 - The Table Was Made:
 - For The Bread - Which Was Called:
 - The “Bread Of Presence!”
 - And - It Was Meant To Represent:
 - Not Only God’s Presence:
 - With His People!
 - But Also - The People’s Presence:
 - Before God!
 - And So - This Is How:
 - I Would Like For Us:
 - To Look At This Table Tonight!
 - And How It Is Special:
 - Because Of - First:
 - Its Connection With The Presence Of God! And:
 - Because Of - Second:
 - Its Connection With The People Of God!

* So - The First Reason This Table Is So Special - Is Because Of:

1. ***Its Connection With The Presence Of God!***

- Just Think About What We Just Read:

- And How The Table Itself Was Made!
 - It Was To Be Constructed:
 - In A Similar Way:
 - As The Ark - Upon Which:
 - God Would Meet & Sanctify & Dwell With His People!
- But - There - Access To God:
 - And His Presence Was Limited!
 - Only The High Priest Could Enter Into The Holy Of Holies:
 - Through The Thick Vail That Separated The Two Rooms:
 - Of The Tabernacle!
 - And - The High Priest:
 - Could Only See The Ark & The Mercy Seat - One Time Per Year:
 - On The Day Of Atonement!
 - And - As Hebrews 9:7 Tells Us:
 - He Did This - "Alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people!"
- Now - If Part Of God's Purpose:
 - For The Tabernacle:
 - Was So That His People:
 - Might Get To Know Him Better!
 - This Seems Like A Hard Way To Do So!
- But - That Is Why:
 - The Lord Had Moses:
 - Build Other Objects & Articles:
 - For The Tabernacle!
 - Including This Table Of Shewbread!
 - And - It Was Clearly Intended:
 - By The Lord:
 - To Have A Special Connection:
 - To The Ark - Which Lay Just Behind The Vail!
- And That Is Why:
 - For The Table - We See A:
- Similar Plan:
 - As That Of The Ark!
 - The Table Was To Be Made:
 - With The Same Wood As The Ark!
 - 25:23 - Shittim / Acacia - With All Of Its Enduring Properties - Resistant To Moister & Insects!
 - And Though The Table Was A Bit Smaller:
 - Than The Ark - 3' x 1.5' - Their Heights:
 - Were Exactly The Same - 2.25'!
 - So - The Table Was Connected:
 - To The Ark:
 - Because Of Their Similar Plan!
 - But Also Because Of Their:
- Similar Properties!
 - From 25:24 - We See That:
 - The Table Was Overlayed With Pure Gold:
 - In The Same Way:
 - The Ark Was!
 - Which Was To Represent:
 - The Great Value & Treasure:
 - God Was To His People!
 - So - The Table Was Connected:
 - To The Ark:
 - Because Of Their Similar Properties!
 - But Also Because Of Their:
- Similar Pattern!

- In 25:24-25 - We Find That:
 - There Was A Golden Crown Or Filigree:
 - That Went All The Way Around:
 - The Table!
 - This Was The Same Kind Of Molding:
 - That Was To Be Put On:
 - The Top Of The Ark As Well!
- But - On The Table:
 - This Molding Was To Be Doubled!
 - Around The Table & Around A Border:
 - Which May Have Served As A Rim Around The Table!
- And - This Decoration:
 - Was To Represent:
 - The Great Glory & Beauty Of God:
 - To His People!
- So - Once Again - The Table Was Connected:
 - To The Ark:
 - Because Of Their Similar Pattern!
 - But - Also Because Of Their:
- Similar Portability!
 - In 25:26-26 - The Golden Rings & Staves:
 - That Were Upon The Ark:
 - Are Also Placed Upon This Table!
 - So That - It Might Go With God's People - Wherever:
 - He Would Lead Them!
 - So - The Table Was Connected:
 - To The Ark:
 - Because Of Their Portability!
 - But - The Main Connection:
 - They Had Was Their:
- Same Point!
 - Everything Used To Build The Table:
 - Pointed To Christ:
 - In The Same Way As:
 - The Ark!
 - We See In Both Objects:
 - The Greatness, The Glory, The Grandeur, And The Grace Of Christ!
- And - This Special Connection:
 - Between The Table Of Shewbread & The Ark:
 - Teaches Us That:
 - They Belong Together!
 - **IE:** Like Having Matching Furniture In Your Home! The Furniture Of The Tabernacle Matched!
 - But - One Big Difference:
 - Between The Table & The Ark:
 - Was That:
 - Through The Table:
 - Many More Priests Could Experience The Presence Of God!
 - Even If It Was Just A "Taste" Of It!
 - So - The Table Of Shewbread:
 - Was Special:
 - Because Of Its Connection With:
 - The Ark Of The Covenant:
 - And The Presence Of God!
 - But - The Table Of Shewbread:
 - Was Also Special - Because Of:

2. *Its Connection With The People Of God!*

- The Ark & Its Mercy Seat:
 - That We Looked At Last Week:
 - Portrayed:
 - Christ's *Exclusive* Connection:
 - With *Heaven* - And With:
 - The *Presence* Of God!
 - Because - It Displayed To Us:
 - His Divine Nature:
 - As God!
- The Table Of Shewbread:
 - Along With Its Vessels:
 - Portrays:
 - Christ's *Embracing* Connection:
 - To *Earth* - And With:
 - The *People* Of God!
 - Because - Like The Priests:
 - Who Were Able To Minister Before:
 - The Table!
 - As Christians:
 - We Are Able To Do The Same!
 - In 1 Peter 2:9:
 - The Apostle Peter Applies To All Believers In Christ:
 - What Was Promised To:
 - The Children Of Israel In Exodus 19:6!
 - He Tells Us:
 - "But ye are a chosen generation, *a royal priesthood*, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light!"
 - Every Christian Is Now:
 - Part Of God's Royal Priesthood!
 - Which Means That:
 - You Have Free Access To Know God:
 - Through The Ministry Of Jesus Christ, Who Is:
 - Our Great High Priest!
 - And - The Table Of Shewbread:
 - Helps Us Understand:
 - What That Means! So That:
 - Right Now - In Christ:
 - You Can Find Your:
 - True Standing Before The Lord!
 - The Glory & Beauty Of The Table:
 - Might Have Made It Feel:
 - Unapproachable:
 - By The Priests!
 - **IE:** Museum Piece - "Do Not Touch!"
 - But - The Height Of The Table:
 - Just 27" Off The Floor:
 - Made It Accessible:
 - For All The Priests!
 - And It Was Made This Way:
 - So That The Priests Could Enjoy The:
 - Food Of God!
 - The Bread That:
 - The Priests Offered To God On The Table:
 - Belonged First:
 - To God!
 - And So - It Represented:
 - The Spiritual Food:

- That God Offers To Us!
- And - The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Is That “Bread Of Life!”
 - John 6:35 - “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst!”
- But - The Purpose Of That Food:
 - Was So That His Priests & His People:
 - Might Have:
- Fellowship With God!
 - The Bread That:
 - The Priests Offered To God On The Table:
 - First Belonged To:
 - The Lord!
 - But Then - It Also:
 - Belonged To Them!
 - The Table Was Set Up:
 - For Them! Even As:
 - “A Token Of Their Communion With God!” (Matthew Henry)
 - And This Table - According To 25:30:
 - Was Always To Be:
 - Set & Ready!
 - And So - As The Priests Would Eat & Drink Before The Table:
 - It Was A “Pledge Of Friendship And Fellowship” Between God & His People!
 - **IE**: Kailey’s Wedding Reception!
- The Table Of Shewbread:
 - Was Another Portrait Of Christ!
 - And The Standing He Offers:
 - To Those Who Come To:
 - His Father Through Him!
 - As The 12 Round Loaves Of Bread:
 - That Represented:
 - The Twelve Tribes Of His People:
 - Were Lifted Up:
 - By The Table!
 - Even So - Jesus Christ:
 - Lifts Us Up Before His Father!
 - 1 Peter 3:18a - “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God!”
- But - The Table Of Shewbread Also Shows Us Our:
 - True Service To The Lord!
 - Which Is Acceptable To Him:
 - Through Our Savior, Jesus Christ!
 - The Table Was Primarily For:
 - The Shew-Bread - Or - The Bread Of Presence!
 - Now - Even Though:
 - In Some Ways:
 - That Bread Represents Christ:
 - Even Like The Jar Of Manna:
 - That Was Preserved In The Ark!
 - This Bread:
 - Was Actually Made & Brought To God:
 - By His People:
 - As An Act Of Worship & Service To Him!
 - In Leviticus 24:5-9:
 - We Learn More About:
 - The Shew-Bread Itself!
 - The Lord Told Moses:
 - “And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one

cake. / And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. / 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. / Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. / And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute!"

- So - Every Sabbath Day:
 - 12 New Cakes / Round Loaves Of Unleavened Bread Were To Be Made:
 - 24:8 - "Being Taken From The Children Of Israel!"
 - So - The Bread Was A Gift:
 - From The People:
 - To The Lord!
 - And - When Placed On The "Pure Table" - It Was Accepted By The Lord!
- And - So It Is With:
 - The Service Of Christians!
 - It Is Christ:
 - Who Takes Our Meager Offerings Of Service:
 - And Makes Them Pleasing Before God The Father!
 - So - Even Though:
 - We Ought To:
 - "Give Of Our Best To The Master!"
 - With The "Finest Flour" We Have!
 - Yet - All Of Our Service:
 - Is Defective In One Way:
 - Or In Many Others!
 - So Much So That:
 - The Only Way It Can Please The Lord:
 - Is If It Offered:
 - Upon The "Pure Table" Of Our Savior!
- Because - He Also Brings About Our:
 - True Sanctification Unto The Lord!
 - In Leviticus 24:7:
 - A Small Bowl Of Frankincense Was Placed:
 - On Top Of Each Stack Of Bread!
 - That Frankincense:
 - Is What Set That Ordinary Bread:
 - Made By The Hands Of His People:
 - Into Sanctified Bread:
 - That God Could Be Pleased With!
 - That Frankincense:
 - Is A Symbol Of:
 - The Work Of Christ:
 - That Perfects Our Own!
 - So That - In Him:
 - There Is No Defect & All Is Approved:
 - Before The Lord!
 - So - Just Like The Table Of Shewbread:
 - Christ Is The One Who - Enables Us To Have:
 - True Standing Before The Lord!
 - True Service To The Lord!
 - True Sanctification Unto The Lord!
 - But - Also:
 - True Security By The Lord!
 - Back In Exodus 25:25:
 - We Learned That There Was To Be:
 - A "Border Of An Hand Breadth Round About!"
 - More Than Likely:

- This Made A Rim Around The Entire Table:
 - So That - When It Was Moved:
 - Nothing On The Table:
 - Would Fall Off!
- In Addition To The Bread:
 - There Were Dishes & Spoons & Covers / Bowls:
 - That Were Probably Used For:
 - The Incense & Drinks For The Priests!
- In The New Testament:
 - We Are Often Described As:
 - The “Vessels” Of The Lord!
 - Even “Earthen Vessels” - Or:
 - “Jars Of Clay” - As Human Beings!
 - But - When We Are Connected To Christ:
 - We Become As Valuable As:
 - Those Gold Vessels On:
 - The Table Of Shewbread!
 - And - The Lord Has Done Everything Necessary:
 - To Keep Us In His Tabernacle!
 - And Will Preserve Us:
 - Forever!

Conclusion:

1. And So - From The Table Of Shewbread:
 - Not Only To We See:
 - Christ - And His Connection:
 - With The Presence Of God:
 - In Heaven!
 - We Also See:
 - Christ - And His Connection:
 - With The People Of God:
 - On Earth!
 - 2. **IE:** As A Boy - Every So Often - My Mom Would Have Us Get Out Her Special Dishes From The China Cabinet!
 And We Would Set The Table With The Best Plates & Cups & Silverware We Had!
 - And - We All Knew What This Meant!
 - Someone Special Was Coming Over For Dinner:
 - As Our Guest!
 - For A Special Time Of:
 - Food & Fellowship!
 - And - This Was What The Table Of Shewbread:
 - Was Meant To Covey:
 - To Us!
 - 3. In The Shepherd’s Psalm:
 - Psalm 23:5 - It Say Of God::
 - “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies!”
 - Jesus Christ Is God’s Special Table:
 - Already Set For Us!
 - So That - Even In The Wilderness Of This World:
 - We Can Enjoy Food & Fellowship With God - Every Single Day!

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