

Exodus 52 - Bread of the Faces: Whose Faces?

Exodus (Names) - Changing the World
Dr. Leon L. Sanders Exodus 25:23-30

The Tabernacle

Tabernacle - Outside



Tabernacle - Inside



Holy Place

Holy of Holies

The Holy Place

- Thick veil separated the Tabernacle into two parts
 - Holy of Holies
 - Sarcophagus
 - Seat of Holiness (Examination)
 - Holy Place
 - Table - Bread of the Faces before the Face
 - Altar of Incense
 - Menorah

Construction

- Table was of wood (Difference as to type of wood)
- Top was an overlay - pure gold
 - Rim with molding
 - Rings of gold with staves for carrying
- Accompanying dishes were gold also
 - Utensils for incense and pour offerings

Two Views of Table of Bread

Tabernacle of Meeting



Bread of the Faces



Majority View

- Nearly every source links Christ with the Table of Bread based on His, "I am the bread of life" [\(Jn-6:31-35\)](#)
 - Yet, He is clearly linked to manna from heaven in the sarcophagus as discussed in our last lesson
 - This article is outside the veil but Christ was one with the Father and therefore inside the veil; i.e., holy [\(Jn-10:22-30\)](#)
 - The twelve loaves for the tribes is wheat from the earth

Veil – Separation from God

- Clearly, the veil represented the separation of Holy God from unholy man before sacrifice of Christ
 - David states that the blood of animals does not take away sin (1st 51:16-17)
 - Veil was torn at Christ's death on the stauros (Mat 27:50-54)
 - Those of the *new* covenant could enter the holiness of God's presence sprinkled with His blood (Heb 9:21-26, 10: 10,19,22)

Holy Place – Man's Place

- Old Covenant
 - Prior to the New Covenant man was not reborn; i.e., he retained his old nature limited in spiritual discernment
 - Apostles represented the best the Law could produce and they constantly struggled to understand Christ
 - Articles in the Holy Place represented man separated from God until death of Christ removed this barrier

Bread Recipe Unknown

- Bible does not give the recipe for the bread
 - Other documents or traditions preserved the recipe
 - Branch of the Levites tasked with making the bread
 - Fresh bread was made every Friday and placed on the table by the priests every Sabbath
 - Usu. only priests ate the *old* bread in the Temple
 - Old signifying staleness of the flesh in Old Covenant

Fine Flour (Le 24:5-10)

- Fine flour - Ground to a smooth texture represents the Hagiazo Process at work in God's people refining them for Him {Maturing them in Christlikeness} (1Co 13:12)
- The Old Testament saints who died without the promise (new covenant) (He 11:32-40)
- The faithful people who refused to worship anything other than God as revealed in His word (De 4:20,22; Ro 8:35,37)
- Unknown if the loaves did or did not contained leaven

Frankincense

- Costly spice from Arabia usually used in burials to mask the smell of decomposing flesh
- Placed on top of each column of bread
- Signifying death of the flesh (Ro 8:13-14; Co 1:21-23; 1Pe 1:18-19)
- Looking ahead to eternity future in a new body (1Co 15:42-49)
 - Born in a fleshly body of the earth
 - Raised in a spiritual body for eternity future

Pour (Drink) Offerings

- The wine offerings were poured on the sacrificial altar at the end of the animal offering
- Often there was also a grain offering
- Recalls to mind Christ's Eucharist
 - Bread (grain) - Body offered
 - Wine - Blood offered
- Drink offering refers to idols being offered wine to drink as they had fleshly needs also (Gnosticism)

Essential to Understand Paul

- When Paul writes about living sacrifices he is not pulling a metaphor out of thin air (Ro. 12:12)
 - He is looking back to Jewish worship exemplified in the Tabernacle/Temple containing metaphors valid for eternity since they were copies of heavenly things
 - The Bread of the Faces is presenting our bodies living sacrifices, putting to death the desires of the flesh and renewing our minds on His word (Hagiazo Process)

Paul Poured Out His Life

- Paul also used Tabernacle imagery in describing his coming execution (2Ti. 4:6-8)
 - The Greek correctly shows he saw his coming death as a libation **poured** out at the end of his sacrificial life
 - He also makes this reference when counseling the Philippians to hold fast to Christ according to his teachings (Ph. 2:14-18)

Israel Did Not Understand (Ro. 11:1-10)

- The majority of Israelites did not understand the message of the Table of Bread {Ignorance Kills}
 - Only a remnant were saved
 - Majority followed their flesh and missed salvation
 - The false Jews killed Messiah and his prophets (11:16-52)
 - The true Jews believed and will be resurrected
 - Their unbelief provided for our salvation

Church Did Not Understand

- After the mid-second century the Church became primarily Gentile losing its knowledge of Judaism
 - Knowledge of Jewish culture and practices were lost
 - Gnosticism and allegorical interpretations allowed for eisegetical interpretations that suited false beliefs
 - RCC perpetuated this in their *traditions*
 - Protestantism kept many erroneous *traditions*

Christians Need to Understand

- Christians have the tools and the revived knowledge of ancient cultures to better understand Old Testament
- Even rudimentary knowledge of Hebrew and Greek dispel the traditions and myths that hinder true beliefs
- Knowledge of ancient Tabernacle reinforces the consistency of the Bible from beginning to end

Table of the Faces

- The Hebrew actually says, "Set the bread of the faces before my face **continually**" (Ex 25:30)
 - We are always before the Lord
 - We are presenting ourselves as living sacrifices to God rather than live to self (Satan)
 - We should expect to be *poored* out as our offering
 - We will receive His blessings for faithfulness

Jews Irreplaceable

- God's calling is without equivocation (Isa. 41:28-32)
 - He called the Jews to be His people
 - Their disobedience allowed grace to go to the Gentiles
 - He will call them back from every nation
 - They will serve Him directly
 - Millennial Kingdom
 - New Jerusalem

Table of Bread Mirrors their Service

- Their service under Christ the High Priest forever
 - Their remembrance of their sin and God's grace of their forgiveness mirror the Table of Bread of the Faces before the Face
 - Their service will be as the frankincense, a sweet aroma to God due to their humble service and worship of the Holy One who forgave them their great sin

Looks Toward Eternity Future

- The separation of the Holy of Holies (Heaven) from the Holy Place (New Heaven and Earth) illustrates:
 - Their service, and ours, will *not* be in Heaven but in the newly created physical universe
 - The veil of separation is removed because Christ dwells among us interceding with the Father in Heaven for us
- Stand in awe of simple metaphor mirroring eternity