

Exodus 25:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The table of showbread is made of acacia wood overlaid with gold (humanity and divinity united), measuring 2 cubits \times 1 cubit \times 1.5 cubits. Unlike the Ark (God's throne), this table serves fellowship—God and man sharing bread. The Hebrew **לחם פנים** (lechem panim, 'bread of the presence/face') means bread constantly before God's face. Christ declares 'I am the bread of life' (John 6:35), the sustenance of divine-human fellowship.

Historical Context

The table would hold twelve loaves representing the twelve tribes (Leviticus 24:5-9), replaced weekly and eaten by the priests. This sacred bread sustained the mediators, prefiguring Christ who sustains all believers in their priestly service.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does shared bread symbolize fellowship between God and His people?

2. In what ways does Christ, the 'bread of life,' sustain your relationship with God?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| וְעַשׂ יְתָ | אֶלֶף | עֵץ יְשִׁתְתִּים | שָׁטָם | אֶת הַ |
| Thou shalt also make | a table | wood | of shittim | thereof and a cubit |
| H6213 | H7979 | H6086 | H7848 | H520 |
| אֶרְפָּא | אֶת הַ | כָּחֵב | אֶת הַ | לִפְנֵי |
| shall be the length | thereof and a cubit | the breadth | thereof and a cubit | and a half |
| H753 | H520 | H7341 | H520 | H2677 |
| לְמִתְוָה | | | | |
| the height | | | | |
| H6967 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:2 (Parallel theme): For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

1 Kings 7:48 (Parallel theme): And Solomon made all the vessels that pertained unto the house of the LORD: the altar of gold, and the table of gold, whereupon the shewbread was,

2 Chronicles 4:8 (Parallel theme): He made also ten tables, and placed them in the temple, five on the right side, and five on the left. And he made an hundred basons of gold.