

Exodus 35:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The altar of burnt offering, with his brasen grate, his staves, and all his vessels, the laver and his foot,

Analysis

The table (שְׁלַחַן, shulchan) for showbread represented God's provision and fellowship with His people through the bread of His presence (לְחֵם הַפָּנִים, lechem ha-panim, 'bread of the faces/presence'). Twelve loaves, one per tribe, sat continually before God, symbolizing Israel's perpetual presentation before Him and His constant provision for them. This anticipates Christ, the bread of life (John 6:35), who provides spiritual sustenance and invites believers to fellowship at His table.

Historical Context

The table was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold, measuring approximately 3' \times 1.5' \times 2.25'. Fresh bread was placed on it each Sabbath (Leviticus 24:5-9), and the removed bread could only be eaten by priests—foreshadowing the holy meal of communion.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the table of showbread illustrate both God's provision for His people and their presentation before Him?
2. In what ways does the showbread anticipate Christ's declaration 'I am the bread of life'?

Interlinear Text

ל וְ אַשְׁר בְּנֵת שְׁתִּים בְּנֵי תְּלִבָּה
H853 The altar of burnt offering H854 grate H834 H0

H4196 H5930

מִכְבֵּר with his brasen

H5178

אַתְּ בְּכִיְרָת אַתְּ בְּכִיְרָת
H853 his staves H853 H3605 and all his vessels H853 H853

H905

H3627

the laver

H3595

כְּתוּב:

and his foot

H3653

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