

Exodus 40:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Analysis

Moses 'set the bread in order upon' the table (וַיַּאֲרוֹךְ עָלָיו עֶרְךָ לֶחֶם, vaya'arokh alav erekh lechem, arranged upon it an arrangement of bread) 'before the LORD' teaches ordered worship. The Hebrew עָרַךְ (arakh, to arrange) emphasizes pattern—the twelve loaves represented twelve tribes in specific configuration. This prefigures the church's ordered worship (1 Corinthians 14:40) and organized structure (Titus 1:5). The phrase 'as the LORD commanded Moses' (4th in ch 40) maintains emphasis on prescribed worship. The bread's perpetual presence 'before the LORD' symbolizes constant covenant relationship.

Historical Context

The twelve loaves, arranged in two rows of six (Leviticus 24:6), remained on the table continuously, replaced fresh each Sabbath. The old loaves, eaten by priests, demonstrated God feeding His ministers through His provision. This perpetual bread offering symbolized Israel's constant dependence on divine sustenance.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does 'arranged in order' bread challenge contemporary casual or disorganized corporate worship?
2. What does the perpetual bread 'before the LORD' teach about believers' constant need for Christ's sustenance?

Interlinear Text

וְעָרַךְ	עַל יוֹ	וַיִּסֶּד	לֶחֶם	לִפְנֵי י	יְהוָה	כֶּאֱשֶׁר
in order	H5921	And he set	the bread	upon it before	as the LORD	H834
H6186		H6187	H3899	H6440	H3068	
צִוָּה	יְהוָה	מֹשֶׁה:	אֶת			
had commanded	as the LORD	H853	Moses			
H6680	H3068		H4872			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 40:4 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt bring in the table, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and thou shalt bring in the candlestick, and light the lamps thereof.

Exodus 25:30 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway.

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.

Matthew 12:4 (Parallel theme): How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?