

Exodus 40:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The table and showbread 'set in order' (וְעָרַךְתָ אֶת-עֲرָכָו, ve'arakhta et-erkho, arrange its arrangement) plus the candlestick with lamps 'set up' (וְהִעַלְתָ, veva'alita, cause to ascend/light) establish worship order. The Hebrew עֲרַךְ (arakh, to arrange) emphasizes pattern and sequence—God's worship follows design, not improvisation. The bread (provision) and light (illumination) symbolize Christ who feeds (John 6:35) and illuminates (John 8:12) His people. The command's precision teaches that New Testament worship, though not ceremonially bound, still requires biblical order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Historical Context

The table stood on the north side of the Holy Place, the lampstand on the south (Exodus 26:35), creating symmetrical design. The showbread's weekly replacement and lamps' daily tending established rhythms of priestly service. This ordered approach to worship contrasted with pagan religions' chaotic, ecstatic practices.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does 'set in order' worship challenge contemporary casual or chaotic approaches to corporate worship?
2. What does the table and lampstand providing nourishment and light teach about the church's sustaining ministry?

Interlinear Text

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|--|----------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------|
| וְבָאתָ | אַתָּה | בְּשָׁלֵךְ | וְעָרַכְתָּ | אַתָּה |
| And thou shalt bring | H853 | in the table | and set in order | H853 |
| | H935 | | H6186 | |
| עֲרָכָה | וְבָאתָ | אַתָּה | בְּמִנְחָה | |
| the things that are to be set in order | And thou shalt bring | H853 | in the candlestick | |
| H6187 | H935 | | H4501 | |
| וְעַלִימָה | אַתָּה | נְרָתִים: | | |
| and light | H853 | the lamps | | |
| H5927 | | H5216 | | |

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 24:8 (Parallel theme): Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant.