

Hebrews 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

Analysis

The tabernacle's structure: a first room (the Holy Place) containing the lampstand, table, and showbread. These items had symbolic meaning - the lampstand representing God's presence (light), the showbread representing God's provision and fellowship. Yet these were 'copies' (8:5) pointing to greater realities. Christ is the true light (John 8:12) and bread of life (John 6:35).

Historical Context

Exodus 25-40 describes these furnishings in detail. The Holy Place was entered daily by priests for routine ministry, unlike the Most Holy Place entered only annually by the high priest. This structure taught gradations of access, all overcome in Christ.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do the tabernacle's furnishings point to aspects of Christ's person and work?
2. What does the limitation of who could enter the Holy Place teach about the need for a better covenant?

Interlinear Text

σκηνὴ	γὰρ	κατεσκευάσθη	ἡ	πρώτη	ἐν	ἢ	ἢ
a tabernacle	For	made	G3588	the first	wherein	G3739	G3588
G4633	G1063	G2680		G4413	G1722		
τε	λυχνία	καὶ	ἡ	τράπεζα	καὶ	ἡ	πρόθεσις
G5037	was the candlestick	and	G3588	the table	and	G3588	the shewbread
	G3087	G2532		G5132	G2532		G4286
τῶν	ἄρτων	ἥτις	λέγεται	Ἄγια·			
G3588	G740	which	is called	the sanctuary			
	G3748	G3004		G39			

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 26:35 (Temple): And thou shalt set the table without the vail, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south: and thou shalt put the table on the north side.

Exodus 40:2 (Temple): On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation.

Exodus 26:33 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

