

Numbers 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall spread upon them a cloth of scarlet, and cover the same with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put in the staves thereof.

Analysis

The scarlet covering over the table of showbread signifies both the dignity of this holy furniture and the blood sacrifice required for communion with God. The showbread represented God's continual provision and His presence dwelling among His people. Every detail of its transport was prescribed by God, teaching that approaching God's presence requires careful obedience to His commands. The Kohathites who carried these items served as mediators of holy things, foreshadowing Christ who is both the bread of life and our mediator.

Historical Context

During Israel's wilderness wanderings, the tabernacle had to be carefully dismantled, transported, and reassembled at each new encampment. The table of showbread held twelve loaves representing the twelve tribes, changed each Sabbath by the priests who ate the old bread in the holy place.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the careful covering of the table of showbread inform our reverence in approaching God?
2. What connection exists between the showbread and Jesus declaration that He is the bread of life?
3. How should the detailed instructions for handling holy things shape our attitude toward Scripture and worship?

Interlinear Text

וְפִרְשָׁו	וְעַלֵּיכֶם	בְּגָד	תְּזַלֵּעַת	וְשָׁנָה	וְתַזְלִיל	וְפִרְשָׁה
And they shall spread	upon them a cloth	of scarlet	and cover			
H6566	H5921	H899	H8438	H8144	H3680	
בְּמִכְסָה הַזֶּה	וְרַעַשׁ	עַזְבָּן	וְשָׁמֶן	אֶת	אֶת	
H853	the same with a covering	skins	of badgers	and shall put	H853	
H4372	H5785	H8476	H7760			
בְּלֹתִים						
in the staves						
H905						

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org