

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

וּפָרֶשׂ וּ	עָלֶיהָ מְ	בְּגָד	תּוֹלַעַ עֵת	שָׁנִי י	וְכֶסֶּוּ
And they shall spread	H5921	upon them a cloth	of scarlet	H8144	and cover
H6566		H899	H8438		H3680
אֶת וְ	בְּמִכְסֵּה	עֹר וְ	תְּחָשׁ	וְשָׂמוּ וְ	אֶת
H853	the same with a covering	skins	of badgers	and shall put	H853
	H4372	H5785	H8476	H7760	
בַּדִּיּוֹ:					
in the staves					
H905					