

According to the Pattern

Table of Showbread

John 6:30-35 (NIV)

³⁰ So they asked him, “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’

³² Jesus said to them, “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ “Sir,” they said, “always give us this bread.”^d

³⁵ Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life.^f Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

The Table of Showbread

The table of showbread was a small table made of acacia wood and overlaid with pure gold. It measured 3 feet by 1.5 feet and was 2 feet, 3 inches high. It stood on the right side of the Holy Place across from the lampstand and held 12 loaves, representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The priests baked the bread with fine flour and it remained on the table before the Lord for one week; every Sabbath day the priests would remove it and eat it in the Holy Place then put fresh bread on the table. Only priests could eat the bread. And it could only be eaten in the Holy Place, because it was Holy.

“Showbread” also called the “bread of presence” because it was to be always in the Lord’s presence. The table and the bread were a picture of God’s willingness to

fellowship and communion (literally speaking, sharing something in common) with man. It was like an invitation to share a meal, an extension of friendship. Eating together often is an act of fellowship. God was willing for man to enter into His presence to fellowship with Him, and this invitation is still open. Jesus came to call sinners to Him, make them right with God, so that they could enjoy everlasting fellowship with God.

- God so desires our fellowship that He was willing to come to earth from heaven as our “bread of life” to give eternal life to all those who would partake in it. Jesus describes Himself as bread in the Passover meal with the disciples. (*Matthew 26:26- “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, “take and eat; this is my body”.*)
- The broken body of our Lord Jesus Christ is our only access to fellowship with God. Today we celebrate the

Lord's Supper or Communion to remember this important truth.

- God still desires fellowship and sit down for a feast with His people as in the days of Moses.