

Elder Vernon Johnson
Colors

Gold - The King's Table

In the scriptures there is a strong correlation between the color or metal, gold, and the subject of kings. Where we find the color or metal, gold, we should be looking for something pertaining to a king.

In the tabernacle in the wilderness that God instructed Moses and the children of Israel to build, there were several pieces of furniture that had gold as either a part of the piece or all of the piece. One such piece of furniture was the table in the Holy Place:

1. Ex. 25:23 "Thou shalt also make a table of shittim wood: two cubits shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. 24 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. 25 And thou shalt make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and thou shalt make a golden crown to the border thereof round about. 26 And thou shalt make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that are on the four feet thereof. 27 Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. 28 And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. 29 And thou shalt make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: of pure gold shalt thou make them. 30 And thou shalt set upon the table showbread before me always."

2. Lev. 24:5 "And thou shalt take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. 6 And thou shalt set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before the LORD. 7 And thou shalt put pure frankincense upon each row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD. 8 Every sabbath he shall set it in order before the LORD continually, being taken from the children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. 9 And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it is most holy unto him of the offerings of the LORD made by fire by a perpetual statute."

This table in the tabernacle points us to King Jesus' table. This table was called a pure table. Moreover, this table had showbread placed upon it that Aaron and his sons ate thereof in the holy place. The bread was a bread of memorial. The bread was placed in two rows, with six loaves in each row. We will look at the spiritual significance of some of these things later in this article.

King David, after that he ascended to the throne of Israel, inquired whether there was any of the sons of Saul that he might show the kindness of God for Jonathan's sake: 2 Sam. 9:1 "And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake? 2 And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he. 3 And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet. 4 And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar. 5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar. 6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant! 7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually."

The word Mephibosheth means "dispeller of shame." He was dwelling in the "house of Machir." The term, "house of Machir" means "house of bondage." Ammiel means "no God." Lodebar means "no pasture." Mephibosheth was one who had been made lame as a result of a fall. He was a dispenser of shame. He was in the house of bondage and without God and had no pasture. He was typical of every child of God before they are born of the Spirit. Before the spiritual birth we were totally depraved as a result of the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden. We were dispenser of shame according to our depraved nature. We were without God and we had no spiritual pasture.

David bestowed a great blessing upon Mephibosheth in that he restored him all the lands of his father, and gave him the privilege of eating bread at the King's table as one of the King's sons. David, however, did not do this for Mephibosheth's sake, but rather he did it for Jonathan's sake. He showed him the kindness of God for Jonathan's sake.

Likewise, we who are like Mephibosheth are blessed for Christ's sake. We had no virtue of our own. We were totally undeserving of the kindness of God. However, according to a covenant arrangement, we are blessed for Christ's sake. Now we may eat at the King's table: Luke 22:29 "And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." While this was spoken directly to the twelve apostles, yet when coupled with the following verse it shows us that we also have part of eating with Christ at His table: 1 Cor. 10:21 "Ye cannot drink the

cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils."

Now that we have established that King Jesus has a table and that we have been made partakers of his table, let us go back to the table in the tabernacle in the wilderness. First, this table was a "pure" table. When you eat what the world feeds you, there is nothing pure. It is mixed with perhaps some good things and some poison. In contrast, the Lord's table is pure. You always know what you can expect to find at the Lord's table.

Second, the table in the tabernacle had a crown of gold around it. This points us to the fact that Christ is the king to whom this table belongs and that he reigns over this house. When we go to eat of the Lord's table, we are not going to eat of some man's table. Only the very best will be served at the Lord's table.

Third, this table had twelve loaves arranged in two rows, with six in each row. The bread of this table was arranged six loaves by six loaves. It was six by six or 66. There are 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. When we eat of the Lord's Table, we are eating of the very best of food. We are eating of the food of the scriptures. Further, there was frankincense sprinkled on these six by six loaves. Frankincense signifies the sacrificial atonement of Jesus Christ. The scriptures are a continually testimony of Jesus: John 5:39 "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." The sacrificial atonement of Christ for the elect gives us an extremely sweet savor when we search the scriptures.

Fourth, the table had four rings on the sides with two staves overlaid with gold by which the table was to be carried by the priests. The priests were the sons of the High Priest. Only the sons of the High Priest were allowed to carry the table. Similarly, only the sons of our King and High Priest (Jesus Christ) are allowed to sit and eat at the King's table and only the sons of our High Priest are allowed to carry the gospel of the grace of Christ.

Fifth, the utensils of the table: spoons, bowls, dishes: are all of pure gold. They are the work of the King and belong to the King. We are made partakers of the Lord's table by being born of the Spirit of God. This is God's work. By this miracle of the New Birth we can eat of the Spirit of God and receive the things of the Spirit of God. We are given faith by which we can partake of the Lord's table. By this same faith we eat of the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Our new birth and our faith comes from our King and belongs to our King. These are the utensils by which we eat from the King's table.