

## Take-Home 7: The Bread of the Presence

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### What We Found

In the Holy Place of Israel's sanctuary stood the golden table, and on it, always, the *lechem ha-panim*, the bread of the Face: you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me always (Exodus 25:30). Among the table's vessels were flagons and bowls for pouring wine offerings. Its law stacked every word of our study: twelve loaves for all Israel, a memorial portion of frankincense, an arrangement called a covenant for ever, and holy bread that the priests shall eat in a holy place (Leviticus 24:5-9).

David received this holy bread at Nob (1 Samuel 21), and Jesus himself cited that story while declaring: something greater than the temple is here (Matthew 12:6). We also heard, clearly labeled as a later Jewish tradition held lightly, the Babylonian Talmud's memory (Menahot 29a; compare Hagigah 26b) of priests lifting the golden table before pilgrims with the words: behold, God's love for you.

### Voices of the Church

**St. Bede the Venerable** (d. 735)

In summary of *De Tabernaculo*: the tabernacle's furnishings figure Christ and his Church, the table and its loaves among them: God's people presented before him and fed in his presence.

**St. Alphonsus Liguori** (1696-1787)

In summary of *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament*: of all devotions, adoration of Jesus in the Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments themselves; the King of heaven keeps residence among us, and love waits there for visitors.

**St. Peter Julian Eymard** (1811-1868)

In summary: the Apostle of the Eucharist took the perpetual Presence as his life's theme. Emmanuel remains, day and night, in the tabernacle; a saying attributed to him promises that an age is renewed when it rediscovers the Presence at its center.

### Live It This Week

- Visit your parish church once this week outside of Mass, find the tabernacle lamp, and sit for ten minutes before the Presence with no agenda.
- Memorize the memory verse, and each time you pass a Catholic church this week, pray it once.
- Read Hebrews 9:1-10 slowly and list every object the author names, noticing how many involve bread.

#### SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

*And you shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before me always. Exodus 25:30*

### Before Next Session

Read Genesis 12:1-9 before the next session.

**Catechism references for this session:** CCC 1333-1334, 1378-1379.