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Rabbi Bob Benbow

For those who do not know, the Portion name comes from the first word or words of the portion in Torah. This weeks Torah portion is named Bamidbar and is translated as “In the Wilderness.”

Commentary:

You shall also make a table of shittim [acacia] wood: two cubits the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make thereto a crown of gold round about. And you shall make unto it a border of an hand breadth round about, and you shall make a golden crown to the border thereof round about. And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings in the four corners that on the four feet thereof. Over against the border shall the rings be for places of the staves to bear the table. And you shall make the staves shittim wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be borne with them. And you shall make the dishes thereof, and spoons thereof, and covers thereof, and bowls thereof, to cover withal: pure gold shall you make them. And you shall set upon the table showbread before Me always. (Ex. 25:23-30) And he put the table in the Tent of the Congregation, upon the side of the Tabernacle northward, without the vail. And he set the bread in order upon it before YHVH; as YHVH had commanded Moses. (Ex. 40:22,23) And you shall take fine flour, and bake twelve cakes thereof: two tenth deals shall be in one cake. And you shall set them in two rows, six on a row, upon the pure table before YHVH. And you shall put frankincense upon row, that it may be on the bread for a memorial, an offering made by fire to YHVH. Every Sabbath he shall set it in order before YHVH continually, from the Children of Israel by an everlasting covenant. And it shall be Aaron's and his sons'; and they shall eat it in the holy place: for it most holy to him of the offerings of YHVH made by fire by a perpetual statute. (Lev. 24:4-9) And upon the table of showbread they shall spread a cloth of blue, and put thereon the dishes, and the spoons, and the bowls, and covers to cover withal: and the continual bread shall be thereon: And they shall spread upon them a cloth of scarlet, and cover the same with a covering of badgers' [tachash] skins, and shall put in the staves thereof. (Num.4:7,8) The Table of YHVH, precious and pure gold. Gold is able to be formed and is not subject to oxidation or corrosion. Gold is bright, valuable, and superior to other metals in representing wealth and richness, a precious

treasure. The gold was overlaid on wood; wood probably from a gnarled and thorny tree, like a hawthorn. A Table where bread was kept. A shadow of, and later a reminder, of Yeshua, the Bread of Life. The covering of the Table was blue in color, as was the robe of the High Priest's ephod, the laces of the breastplate, and the laces to hold the pure gold plate on the miter. *And they shall bind the breastplate by the rings thereof to the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that may be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate be not loosed from the ephod. And Aaron shall bear the names of the Children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goes in to the holy, for a memorial before YHVH continually. And you shall make the robe of the ephod all blue. And there shall be a hole in the top of it, in the midst thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work round about the hole of it, as it were the hole of a habergeon, that it be not rent. And you shall make a plate pure gold, and grave upon it the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO YHVH. And you shall put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the miter; upon the forefront of the miter it shall be. And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the Children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that they may be accepted before YHVH.* (Ex. 28:28,29,31,32,36-38) The loops of the curtains were also made of blue. Vessels of gold, dishes, spoons, and bowls to hold the precious frankincense; a fragrant gum resin used in religious ceremony, in perfume and incense, and used in embalming, also called olibanum. The incense frankincense became a symbol of the Divine Name, and was also a representation of prayer. *For from the rising of the sun even to the going down of the same My Name great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense offered to My Name, and a pure offering: for My Name great among the heathen, said YHVH of Hosts.* (Mal. 1:11) *And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given to him much incense, that he should offer with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.* (Rev. 8:3,4) Bread, continual, prepared and left there every Sabbath for the week, then to be eaten by those chosen by YHVH in a holy place. Unleavened, holy, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Bread consecrated to YHVH. The translation from the Hebrew is "lechem panim" or bread in the face/presence of God. Bread has been known as "the staff of life", and also can be known as "bread of sorrows", or "bread of tears". (see Ps. 80:4,5) It can also be a "bread of wickedness or deceit", as was with Yeshua and Judas. Yeshua said: *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.* (Matt. 4:4) Yeshua taught His disciples to pray: *Our Father which are in Heaven, Hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.* (Luke 11:2-4) *And as they were eating, Yeshua took bread, and blessed, and broke, and gave to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is My body.* (Matt. 26:26) *Then Yeshua said to them, Verily, verily, I say to you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He which comes down from heaven, and gives life to the world. Then said they to Him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Yeshua said to them, I Am the bread of life: he that comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that*

believes on Me shall never thirst. This is the bread which comes down from Heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. (John 6:32-35,50) And all these shall be covered with a cloth of scarlet, and then of skin. The bread of God, covered in skin. Scarlet was also a color used in the High Priest clothing in the ephod, the girdle, and the breastplate. A scarlet robe was put on Yeshua when the soldiers mocked Him. The Word describes our sins: *Come now, and let us reason together, says YHVH: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.* (Is. 1:18) Scarlet wool thread was also used in the purification ceremonies, along with blood, water, wood, and hyssop. The sons of Zadok will come near to His Table to minister to Him and keep His charge, for they did not stray from Him. (Ezek. 44:16) And one day, we will be at His Table, in His Kingdom, with His people. Halleluyah! Selah. Shema.