

THE PURPOSE SERIES

# THE SECRET TO FINDING PURPOSE IN CHAOS

LIVING A  
FULFILLED LIFE

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People often ask themselves, “What is my purpose? Why was I born?” You must understand that every individual is born with a purpose. Unfortunately, most people do not know what God’s purpose is for their life. As we encounter the “Last Days” it is time for every child of God to be clear and certain about what he or she is supposed to be doing for the Kingdom of God. You will never have the peace, joy, fulfillment or provision which you desire to have until you begin doing what you were purposed to do. God wants you to know and fulfill your purpose.

Many Christians today are not living in God’s purpose for their lives; therefore, they have little peace, joy or fulfillment. Until you begin to move into that purpose for which you are destined, all you can do is to continue to exist. Our foundational text for this chapter is Exodus 25 which illustrates God ordaining

**You shall also make a table of acacia wood; a two cubits shall be its length, a cubit its width, and a cubit and half its height. And you shall overlay it with pure gold, and make a molding of gold all around. You shall make for it a frame of a handbreadth all around, and you shall make a gold molding for the frame all around. And you shall make for it four rings of gold, and put the rings on the four corners that are at its four legs. The rings shall be close to the frame, as holders for the poles to bear the table. And you shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold, that the table may be carried with them. You shall make its dishes, its pans, its pitchers, and its bowls for pouring. You shall make them of pure gold. And you shall set the showbread on the table before Me always.”**

**(Exodus 25:23-30)**



In this passage, God gives Moses instructions for the construction of a part of the furniture of the temple—namely the table of showbread, which is made out of acacia wood overlaid with gold. That table is in the second-dimension of the temple—the inner court—and not in the most holy place. The showbread is unleavened bread baked that is placed on the table every day and illuminated by the candlestick (which was also in the Inner Court) which shed its light on the table of showbread. There were 12 pieces of showbread, which represent the 12 tribes of Israel. According to the Law of Moses, only the priests could legally eat the showbread in the temple, and they could not eat the showbread if it was more than a day old—it would be put out in the morning and taken away in the evening.

In 2 Chronicles 2 Solomon is building a temple for the Lord.

**Then Solomon sent to Hiram king of Tyre, saying:**

**As you have dealt with David my father, and sent him cedars to build himself a house to dwell in, so deal with me. Behold, I am building a temple for the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread, to burn before Him sweet incense, FOR THE CONTINUAL SHOWBREAD, for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the Sabbaths, on the New Moons, and on the set feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance forever to Israel. (2 Chronicles 2:3-4)**

That “forever” ordinance means that these things are to be set before God continually, as He commands Moses to set the showbread on the table before Him always. Solomon sees this command as so significant that he includes it when writing to Hiram about building of the tabernacle for God’s presence with His people. In Moses’ day, the tabernacle was in a moving tent. But Solomon built a temple as first envisioned in his father David’s heart, so that which God ordains—including the showbread—can be continually set before Him.



So follow this...

First of all, God says in Exodus 25 that the showbread is to be set on the table before Him always. Then in 2 Chronicles 2, Solomon declares that he must build a house for God so that this continual showbread can be before Him. What is so significant about this bread? Why does God say that it is to be before Him always? Why does Solomon include the showbread as one of the reasons why a house must be built for God? Jesus clarifies the rationale somewhat in the New Testament. Remember, that everything in the Old Testament is a type-and-shadow of what is to come in substance for us in Christ. The Bible says, "Now these things became our examples. . ." (1 Corinthians 10:6). In other words, they were acted out, and are shadows of what is to come, but are not the very substance of these things. So then, every instrument which God ordains to be established and built in the tabernacle is significant.

In Mark 2 Jesus deals with this concept of the showbread when asked why His disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath. Although the Law of Moses says that no one was to work on this day, Jesus' hungry disciples went out picking grain and corn to eat.

**Now it happened that He went through the grainfields on the Sabbath; and as they went His disciples began to pluck the heads of grain. And the Pharisees said to Him, "Look, why do they do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" But He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and hungry, he and those with him: how he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the showbread, which is not lawful to eat except for the priests, and also gave some to those who were with him?" And He said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath." (Mark 2:23-28)**



After the Pharisees ask Jesus, “Why are Your disciples breaking the law?” He says, “Have you never read what David did?” Now what Jesus is referring to here is recorded in 1 Samuel 21:1-6 as David is running from Saul: David and his men are hungry, so he asks Abiathar the high priest for food and provisions. But the priest says, “I do not have anything, but this showbread.” So David says, “Well, give that to us.” And the priest states, “Well, if you have abstained from women and have been living sanctified, then you could have it.” But the principle is that it is only for priests. So, Jesus points out that David, who was not a priest, ate the showbread, but he did not suffer judgment.

Jesus’ point is that the Pharisees missed the whole purpose of the showbread—it was type-and-shadow—but they did not understand that. So He is saying to them, “Because you do not understand the purpose of the showbread, you are missing an important part of life in the Kingdom of God because you lack understanding in this area.”

Now, when I read that, I said to God, “This is really strange. What is so significant about this?” Let us examine the original language. The New Testament is written in Greek. The word “showbread” is the Greek word prothesis, which means “to establish before; intention or purpose.” Prothesis is translated into English often as “purpose.” It is the same Greek word recorded in *Romans 8:28*: “*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His PURPOSE.*” Purpose is that which is set, intended or determined before. So, if you place this understanding into the Old Covenant “type and shadow” you come to understand that: purpose must be before God continually: a house must be built to house *HIS PURPOSE*



In other words, in Romans 8:28, “according to His prothesis,” refers to that which He has set or established before, to those who are doing that for which they were purposed. This definition puts a different light on that verse. Here, God is saying, “If you are not fulfilling your purpose, you cannot rest assured that all things are working together for good for you. But if you are in your purpose, you can be assured.”

So the revelation of the story of Jesus going through the cornfield is this: when you fulfill or are “eating” purpose, you can supersede natural and religious laws. When walking and moving in purpose, you do not bow to religious laws, they bow to you. As long as you are in the purpose that God has ordained for you, all of creation will cooperate to bring about His will for your life.

In Mark 2:26, Jesus says David ate the showbread, which is not lawful **except for the priests**. Old Testament priests had the privilege and responsibility of eating the showbread, which is the *prothesis or the purpose*. The revelation of the priesthood in the Old Testament eating the showbread was the revelation of them consuming purpose. The priest had the privilege and responsibility under the Old Testament—which was written for our example, and to foreshadow those things to come for us in Christ—of consuming purpose. They had to eat “purpose” every day, and only the part which came to them on that day. Since it is type-and-shadow, I am going to be passing through the cross from the Old to New Testament.

In the Old Testament, the showbread is on the table in the second-dimension or the temple’s inner court. In the New Testament, Jesus says “*I am the bread of life.*” (John 6:48) In the Old Testament that bread is baked every day, and set out before the Lord continually. In other words, *God wants purpose before Him all the time*. Solomon had to build this house for the incense and the showbread. Incense is a type of prayer—so prayer has to come out of purpose. So as you pray over purpose, situations begin to manifest. Remember, God wants purpose before Him continually. Now again, in the Old Testament, the bread has to be set out every day for the priest to eat. But the priest could only eat the bread which came that day. In the New Testament, Jesus says to pray, “*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.*” (Matthew 6:9-11)



The revelation from Jesus is that you are assured everyday of whatever you need that day as it relates to your purpose. So if you are not living in purpose—or do not have purpose constantly before you and before God—you may be lacking provision or what you need.

The Old Testament's 12 loaves of showbread represent the 12 tribes of Israel, who were in covenant with God and with one another. So the showbread is a type of Christ and the 12 tribes. The New Testament in *1 Peter 2:9* reads, *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation."* Since only the priests can eat the showbread legally, God is saying that purpose can only be realized in Christ. You cannot fulfill your purpose unless you first come into relationship with God through Jesus Christ. He is the bread of life; He is that which illuminates and causes you to know and fulfill your purpose.

The Bible says, *"for it is God who works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."* (*Philippians 2:13*) You can never ultimately fulfill your purpose outside of a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That is why the invitation to come to Christ is so important and so powerful. It is not just to save souls from eternal damnation but also an invitation to life. God is saying, "You will never know what I created you to be; you will never fulfill your purpose; you will never walk in peace and victory and power; you will never live a fulfilling and an abundant life until you come into relationship with Me and start eating showbread after you become a priest." Get this: It is the people of God fulfilling their purpose which causes this natural realm to function properly. We are the only ones who have the legal right to our purpose and to fulfill it.



Now there are people in the world who for some reason—positive upbringing or good education—have come into a dimension of their purpose and fulfill it. But they are not living it to the level that they would if they were in relationship with God. There are people who are very successful in the world, but if you look more closely, some part of their life is dying. They may have a lot of money, but their family is unhappy. They may have yachts, boats and airplanes, but their spouses are being unfaithful, their children are strung out on drugs and selling themselves on the street. They may have social status and power, but these powerful strong individuals have addictions to illegal drugs. This is not success, victory or living a purposeful life: this is bondage.

To live a life of purpose, you must first be in covenant with God and then in relationship to God's covenant people. You will never fulfill your purpose until you come into relationship with God's people. If you are God's child, a part of your purpose is to function in the Body of Christ.

This is why you can be in church doing something which, in your mind, has nothing to do with what you believe God has purposed you to do. But as you remain faithful there, God will begin to dust off purpose in your life and you will begin to see it clearly so that you can do it.





*By being in relationship with God's covenant people, you have the legal right and authority to consume purpose:* it is yours by nature of your covenant relationship. Since purpose is found in Christ and can only be fully realized in covenant relationship with Him, in order for purpose really to come to fruition, a house must be built for it to live in. Solomon says, *"Behold, I am building a temple for the name of the Lord my God to dedicate it to Him, to burn before Him sweet incense, for the continual showbread. . ."* (2 Chronicles 2:4) Jesus says, *". . . on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."* (Matthew 16:18) Peter says, *". . .you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood..."* (1 Peter 2:5) God has given you a body – a life, so that purpose can be realized through it. I want you to hear this and never forget it! Never again wonder if you have a purpose. You have a body and you have life BECAUSE YOU HAVE A PURPOSE!! God has given you a body and a life so that His Purpose can be accomplished thru them.

I cannot stress to you enough the importance of God's statement that "the showbread is to be before Me continually." God is saying, "When I look at you, purpose is what is before Me continually. The purpose for which I created you and set you on the planet—why you were born; the time you were born; the people you were born to—that is what is before Me all the time." If you do not know what that is and if you are not praying in agreement with that, then you and God are on different wavelengths. God is saying, "When I look at you, I am looking at purpose: why I made you; why I set you here; why I placed you—not what people said about you." This is why no matter what you've done God never gives up on you. He's not looking at your bad deeds... But at His PURPOSE for you!





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