

Organisation of Priests - i.e. Fixed Daily Service

Ref: *Sefer Avodah, Hilchot Temidin Umusafin*, Chapter 4–5

Duty allocation by *Payis* (lottery)

ORGANISATION OF PRIESTS

- 24 *mishmarot* (watches).
- 1 watch would serve for 1 week.
- 1 watch made up of 7 *batei avot* (clans).
- 1 clan would serve per day. Each clan had a leader.

The Priests of a clan for that day would gather in the *Lishkat Hagazit* (Chamber of Hewn Stone) after dawn for a lottery of who would do which services.

Reminder:

Pack on *Bet Habechirah*



The *memuneh* (supervisor) carries out the lottery and chooses those who will do the services. The Priests stand around him in a semi-circle.

The rest of the Priests return to their ordinary garments. (I.e. ones who were not chosen.)

MORNING (REGULAR DAY)

4 *peyasot* – were carried out

1) 1 Priest

- Removal of ashes from *Mizbeach*.
- Arranges wood on *Mizbeach*.
- Bring the 2 logs of wood to the *Mizbeach*.
- Brings a scoop of burning coals from the outer *Mizbeach* to the inner one.

2) 13 Priests

- Slaughter of the *Tamid*.
- Receiving of blood of *Tamid* and sprinkling onto *Mizbeach*.
- Removal of ashes from *Mizbeach Hazahav*.
- Removal of ashes from *Menorah* and lighting of its lamps.
- Carries head of *Tamid* to ramp and its right hind leg.
- Carries 2 forefeet of *Tamid* to ramp.
- Carries tail and left hind leg to ramp.
- Carries breast and neck to ramp.
- Carries 2 flanks to ramp.
- Carries stomach and intestines to ramp.
- Brings flour of *Nesachim*.
- Brings *Chavitin*.

- Brings wine of *Nesachim*.

3) 1 Priest

- *Ketoret* (Incense Offering)

4) 1 Priest

- Delivering of limbs from ramp to *Mizbeach*.

AFTERNOON (REGULAR DAY)

- 1 Priest for *Ketoret* of afternoon

- Rest of duties were kept by same Priests of that morning, except for the *Ketoret*.

SHABBAT

 | To bring an Additional Offering of 2 lambs on Shabbat.⁸

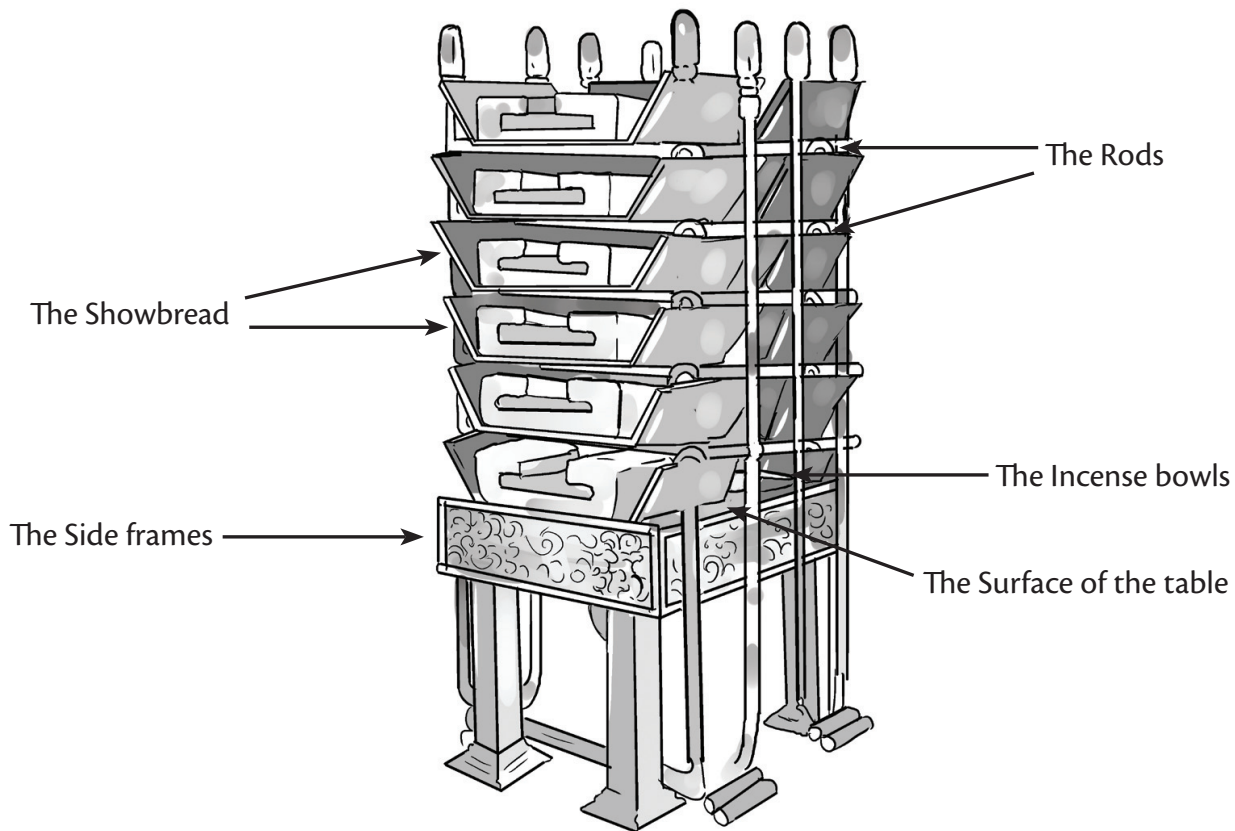
The *Bet Av* (clan) that was leaving on *Shabbat* (after morning sacrifices) would make a lottery among themselves of who would do the *Musaf* offering (additional offering of 2 lambs) [same Priests as Tamid] and the offering of 2 bowls of frankincense. 2 Extra Priests i.e. 1 bowl each.

Both watches on *Shabbat* would participate in the Division of the *Lechem Hapanim* (Showbread), including the *Kohen Gadol*.

The *Kohen Gadol* always receives ½ of each watch's share, i.e. 6 loaves.

Lechem Hapanim (Showbread)

The *Shulchan* (Table for the Showbread)



🏠 | To prepare the *Lechem Hapanim* (Show Bread).⁹

The *Lechem Hapanim* is arranged on the *Golden Table* in the *Kodesh*, every *Shabbat*.

There were 12 loaves arranged in 2 sets of 6.

Also on the Table were 2 *bazach* (dishes) of frankincense. (one for each set)

The *Lechem Hapanim* plus frankincense remained on the Table the whole week. A new set was brought on *Shabbat* and the old set was divided between the 2 watches of Priests and the *Kohen Gadol*.

PROCEDURE

4 Priests from the new watch enter Temple and stand in North of the *Mizbeach* facing South.

- 2 hold one set of Breads each.
- 2 hold the 2 *bazach* (dishes) of frankincense.

4 Priests from the old watch enter the *Kodesh* to remove old Breads. (They stand in South of the *Mizbeach* facing the North.)

- 2 Remove the 2 sets of Bread.
- 2 Remove the 2 *bazach* of frankincense.

Then the first 4 Priests place the new Breads plus frankincense as the old Bread is being removed, so that there is always Bread on the *Shulchan*.

On leaving, the old Breads were placed on another Golden Table in the *Ulam*.

The frankincense was then offered on the *Mizbeach*.

The old Breads were then divided. If it was *Yom Kippur*, the division was done after nightfall.