

THE	WORD	TABLE



Leanna Bolden Eternally Speaking Now

A friend texted last week asking, "Does the word table mean anything to you?"

As soon as I read that, my heart leaped. You'll understand why in a moment.

Initially, I wasn't sure exactly what she meant, so I responded, "Are you asking about the word, "table"?

Or are you asking about the "Word-Table"?

She said she was curious if the word "table" held any significance for me because she knows how I'll often notice a repeated theme or word in my life, compelling me to search the Bible for all the verses that use that term.

Well, our communication blossomed from there, leading to an in-person conversation about—you guessed it, tables. While the direction of our conversation is not what I'm writing today (I'll let her share her own table story), I knew at the moment of her first text that the Holy Spirit was prompting me to write this month about my table story.

Indeed, my heart fluttered when I read my friend's question because the Lord had not only been speaking to me about the word "table", but He'd also unveiled a glorious thing to me I've affectionately named The Word Table.

This is so exciting. It's been a double blessing for me. Now here it is for you!

First, the word "table"

A few weeks before I finished a 20-week Bible study on Scriptures about rocks and stones, God directed me to teach about Moses' experience with the Ten Commandments (which were written on two stone **tablets**). May I share with you a couple of incredible insights from these Scriptures about the word "table"?

Let's begin with a condensed overview of Moses and these two tablets:

- The Lord called Moses to fast for 40 days and nights.
- This faithful friend of God spent that time in God's Presence at the top of Mt. Sinai.
- Moses documents this in several areas of the Bible, one of which is Deuteronomy 9:9-11.

"When I went up into the mountain to receive the **tablets** of stone, the **tablets** of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

"Then the LORD delivered to me two **tablets** of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

"And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant."

At this point, you may be wondering,
"What do **tablets** have to do with **tables**?

I thought **tables** are furniture where we sit."

Indeed they are, but check this out:
the **tablets** God wrote on were not only *related* to **tables**, but...
they also were **tables**.

Following is the Hebrew root word for "tablet" in the above Deuteronomy verses, along with its definition from Strong's Concordance:

וּתּ lûwach, loo'-akh; or חַל luach; from a primitive root; probably meaning to glisten; a tablet (as polished), of stone, wood or metal:—board, plate, table.

As we know, the use of this word in the context of Deuteronomy 9 (and other biblical references to the Ten Commandments) obviously indicates a tablet of stone, right? Of course. In fact, our English dictionary definition for tablet, if you look farther down in its list of various descriptions, does include "table," describing a board on which to write, or a tablet of sorts.

That said though, I cannot deny how absolutely **gorgeous** it is of God to use a word in the Hebrew language that is also used by us to describe...**a plate or table**. Further, how beautiful is it that this original word, spoken by the Lord Almighty, carries with it the detailed description of "**glistening and polished**"?

Intriguingly, the King James Version of the Bible doesn't even use the word tablet; it literally says "tables" when speaking of the stone tablets.

So, what was it that God **served** to His people on this **glistening**, **polished**, **stone table**?

What was it that He Himself engraved on a plate with His own finger?

It was the covenant the LORD made with His people:
The Ten Commandments,
authored by our Creator,
given as a gift to His treasured creation.

Well, if you're familiar with the historical account of all this, you know that the first set of tables the Lord gave Moses got shattered and broken-- by Moses himself. This righteous man of God had to return to the mountain for another 40 days, after which time he descended a second time with the second set of tablets. I don't have space here to delve into this further, but it's worth noting these observations for now:

- The Ten Commandments are God's law, presented on stone tables.
- Moses broke them.
- God gave him a second chance.

Today, we who are in Christ, literally have God's law-- His new covenant and law of love-- written on our hearts. What was once etched onto stone tables is now permanently inscribed within our very beings.

"Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."

2 Corinthians 3:3

Our hearts are like a **dish**, **cleansed** and **spilling over** with God's **abundance**, for the purpose of both **nourishing** us and also using us to deliver His **delicious** love to others.

- Yet...as vividly illustrated by Moses, we all break God's law too, don't we?
- Thanks be unto our Lord Jesus Christ, our good Father also gives *us* second chances (and third and fourth and fifth and...).

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23

Second, the "Word-Table"

I cannot encourage you enough to grab a hold of the Bible and use it for every aspect of your life. God's Word is **alive**, and He speaks mightily to us through it! As my friend acknowledged, one way I delight to do this is by searching the Scriptures by theme. What she didn't know though, and what I haven't shared publicly yet, is how the results from word-searches can be arranged into a **divinely insightful** (*double drum roll*, *please...*) Word Table.

To exemplify this, let's continue with the word "tablet"/luwach.

Step One: Search the Bible for all the verses with a word, topic, name, or theme that you've noticed has repeatedly crossed your path. For example, the word tablet. (Let the Holy Spirit lead you. He will quicken your spirit.) There are many online Bible options; as of this writing, a free one with few ads is **blueletterbible.com**.

Step Two: It's especially enlightening to learn the Hebrew/Aramaic (Old Testament) or Greek (New Testament) original word (for the English word you're examining) and its meaning. For example, the Hebrew word luwach (tablet). My site of preference for this is **eliyah.com**.

Step Three: I like to copy and paste the Scriptures into a Word document so I can print them, study them, ask the Holy Spirit for insight, and pray through them. If you'd like access to lists of verses by topic that are already gathered and on printable pages, feel free to visit **my Scripture page here**.

Step Four: As the Lord reveals what He wants to speak, the information can be charted onto a table.

Luwach Word Table

(Hebrew root word for "tablet" in NKJV)

Luwach = "to glisten; a tablet (as polished), of stone, wood or metal:
—board, plate, table."

Scripture Reference	About	Conviction / Encouragement / NT Cross-Reference
Exodus 24:12, 31:18, 32:15-19, 34:1,4, 28-19 Deuteronomy 4:13, 5:22, 9:9-17, 10:1-5	God's law, tablets of stone; Tablet = luwach; Engraved by God's finger; Broken! Second chances	Daily confession/repentance; celebrate forgiveness in Christ! Revisit Hebrew word for "broken" (SO powerful! It reveals new birth Jesus!) NT: Romans 3:23, 1 John 1:9, (Lamentations 3:23)
1 Kings 8:9 2 Chronicles 5:10	Second set of stone tablets placed in Ark of the Covenant	Cherish His Presence; He is with me. NT: Hebrews 9:4

Exodus 27:8 Exodus 38:7 1 Kings 7:36	Altar of burnt offering; do what God says and in the way He has instructed	Am I trying to do anything my own way? What's on the altar of my heart? Surrender. NT.: Romans 12:1-2 - focus on being a living sacrifice to Him.
Isaiah 30:8 Jeremiah 17:1	Warning against rebellion and resistance to hearing and receiving from God, even if I don't like what He has said	Holy Spirit, examine my heart; convict me of any way I may be resisting your promptings; is there something I'm to document or journal?
Proverbs 3:3 Proverbs 7:3	Mercy and truth; bind around neck, bind around fingers, engrave on heart	Is my heart fully set apart for God? NT: 2 Cor 3:3 I'm His living epistle, with His "love-law" engraved on heart.

Song of Solomon 8:9 Luwach is translated here as "board;" the brothers place it as a barrier to protect their sister from sin/ impurity/ lures of the enemy and of men	Be on guard against enemy's lures; are there sisters in Christ I may come alongside? Daughters to intercede for? Keep our souls in purity, Lord.
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Ezekiel 27:5 (Also see Ezekiel 4:1, which says "tablet" in NKJV, but root word is not luwach)	God gives His word to His children so we may share it and be His "living illustrations"; Warning against pride (translated again as "board")	Lord God, speak through me to others; give me words others need to hear, and may I heed those words, too. NT: Luke 1:63 - loose my tongue, may it only be what You would say.
Habakkuk 2:2	Watch for God, listen to His guidance, be ready for His vision; when it is revealed, our perception of it may be "corrected" by Him. When it's ready and it's His time, write it plainly and share it	Revisit old writings and journal entries, especially past visions the Lord has given me and those He gave others for me. Father God, reveal Your will plainly that those who read it may run with it!

Make it your own! Change the headings, add columns, follow the Lord's lead.

There are no rules for this, other than adhering to the truth of God's Word: pondering Scripture in context, allowing the Word to interpret the Word, rightly dividing it, and receiving the whole counsel of God--all the while permitting the Holy Spirit to speak into your soul in the midst of your own unique, personal situations.

Has your knee been hurting?

Consider searching for Scriptures about the word knee.

Does your hip ache? Is your jaw out of joint?

Find what is revealed in verses about the hip or jaw.

Are you surrounded by despair,

engulfed by worry, or gripped by fear?

Dig into the Bible on those themes.

What about seemingly small stuff like a color, an item, a person's name, a phenomenon, or a phrase you keep encountering over and over?

Have you noticed *any* repeated pattern lately?

Do a Word search. Then map it on a Word Table.

I couldn't count the times I've done this. Every time, the Lord has ministered mightily to me through both conviction and encouragement, leaving me all the more in love with Him and His Word.

Run to Jesus, and discern what He wants to speak to you.

He has a delectable, soul-fueling, heart-healing, satisfying feast prepared for you to taste, chew, process, and ingest.

Please don't **table** this.

Spread out your study notes on the dining **table**, and chart your next **Word Table**.

You'll be amazed by the double blessing you'll obtain from both the insight gained as you study a theme, and also the **Word Table** that takes shape as a result.

"He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love." Song of Solomon 2:4

P.S. Speaking of feasts, did you know the Feast of Trumpets is this month? You won't want to miss this! It spans two days and takes place this year from sundown Sunday, September 25 to sundown Tuesday, September 27. What does that mean, and why does it matter? Click the link below and scroll down on my home page for a brief overview. Prepare for the trumpet blast: Jesus will return for His bride soon! Are you ready?

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Information on Feast of Trumpets & Christ's Soon Return



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