

You shall take fine flour and you shall bake it twelve loaves --- on the Shabbos day, on the Shabbos day, he shall set in order before Hashem always. (24:5,8)

The twelve loaves of *Lechem Hapanim* symbolize the twelve tribes. They simultaneously represent a prayer for sustenance of the twelve *shevatim* and an expression of our gratitude to the Almighty for His sustenance. From the word "*tamid*", "always," we derive that the *Shulchan*, Table, is never to be without its twelve loaves. Just as the *Kohanim* were about to remove the past week's bread in order to eat it, other *Kohanim* were at the same moment arranging the new weeks *Lechem Hapanim* on the table. What is the significance of the coincidence of these two actions? If a minute had passed without bread on the Table, would it have been so bad?

Horav Avigdor Miller, Shlita, explains that the concept of "*tamid*" in regard to bread implies Hashem's Providence. Although all living creatures are constantly consuming bread/food, yet Hashem continues to supply additional amounts of food constantly. Never are we without Hashem's sustenance. If He were to halt this process for just a moment, we would have a food shortage. He provides all of the time. It is just that we have become accustomed to taking our bread/sustenance for granted. Only when our bread is endangered, do we respond to Hashem's wake-up call.