

## THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES "The Golden Lampstand"

Exod 25:31-40

- 31 "Make a lampstand of pure gold and hammer it out, base and shaft; its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms shall be of one piece with it.
- 32 Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand-- three on one side and three on the other.
- 33 Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, three on the next branch, and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand.
- 34 And on the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms.
- 35 One bud shall be under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair-- six branches in all.
- 36 The buds and branches shall all be of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold.
- 37 "Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it.
- 38 Its wick trimmers and trays are to be of pure gold.
- 39 A talent of pure gold is to be used for the lampstand and all these accessories.
- 40 See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. (NIV)

*When we recall the fact that the tabernacle had no windows and understand that the lampstand was the only source of light in the holy place, we commence to get an understanding of its importance and significance. As one can well imagine, light is a huge subject in Scripture.*

I Jn 1:5

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. (NIV)

*GOD IS LIGHT! How big is that? God, who is light, commanded Moses to "make them according to the pattern." It was God who decided that there would be one source of light for the holy place. Since He is light, and the tabernacle is an earthly representation of heavenly realities, then the golden lampstand must be representative of God. What is the history of light?*

Gen 1:1-5

- 1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.
- 4 God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.
- 5 God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning-- the first day. (NIV)

*God made the day, evening and morning. But what did He call good? The light! This light wasn't produced by the sun, moon, or stars, for this was still the first day of the week.*

Gen 1:14-19

- 14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years,  
15 and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so.  
16 God made two great lights-- the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars.  
17 God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth,  
18 to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good.  
19 And there was evening, and there was morning-- the fourth day. (NIV)

*It was not until the fourth day that the heavenly luminaries were set in place. For the first three days of this earth's existence, the creation was bathed in the light of Him who is the light.*

John 1:1-14

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
2 He was with God in the beginning.  
3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.  
4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.  
5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.  
6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John.  
7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.  
8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.  
9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.  
10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.  
11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.  
12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--  
13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.  
14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling [*tabernacled*] among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NIV)

*And so we come back to the beginning of this series. The Godhead presided over creation. We see the Father, "In the beginning, God . . ."; we see the Spirit, "and the Spirit of God was hovering . . ."; and we see the Son, "Let there be light." The Apostle John uses the term "light" more often than any other New Testament writer. He is the one who recorded for us this great statement by our Lord while He was on earth:*

John 8:12

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (NIV)

*There is no doubt but that Jesus is the light of the world, the Word which became flesh and*

*tabernacled among us. What was being communicated to us about that marvelous light in the figure of the lampstand?*

First: It is made only of gold. Gold speaks to us of divinity and divine glory. But for a block of gold to become a beautiful lampstand takes a process. It took repeated firings and hammerings to shape the gold into the desired product. As a matter of fact, even to get gold to work with, the raw mineral has to be purified in a furnace. Gold is the end result of trials. But simply having gold isn't the end. This gold is then heated repeatedly and hammered out to the appropriate shape. Even then the work isn't done, for the goldsmith then has to polish his work to remove the marks of the hammer. As discussed in a previous message, our Lord Jesus was put through the furnace of Calvary for you and for me. The resurrection finished God's polishing work on the Son, who now shines forevermore. What the Father did for the Son, he does for all his children.

Job 23:10

But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. (NIV)

1 Pet 1:6-7

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

7 These have come so that your faith-- of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire-- may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. (NIV)

Second: It had a main shaft and six branches. All the branches came out of the side of the shaft, three on the right and three on the left. This speaks to us of Jesus, the vine, and us, his branches.

John 15:5-8

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. (NIV)

We need connection to the Vine to do *anything* fruitfully for God.

In that the branches came out of the side of the shaft, we also see a representation of the bride of Christ. Adam's bride came from his side (Gen. 2:21) and the church was birthed from the pierced side of her Lord (John 19:51).

Third: All the ornamentation on the lampstand was in an almond motif. We talked about the almond when we discussed the ark of the covenant and Aaron's rod that budded. The

language is very similar. On the lampstand we have knops, flowers, and fruit. On Aaron's rod there were buds, flowers, and fruit. The almond speaks to us of firstfruits and resurrections. It is the first tree of the year to bloom in Palestine (Jer. 1:11-12 NIV Study note). But the motif also gives witness to the Godhead.

The buds	commencement and source	The Father
The flowers	begotten, scent of life	The Son
The fruit	fruit	The Holy Spirit

Fourth: There were seven lamps. Seven is the Scriptural number of perfection and completeness. In the seven lamps, God is saying that His light is complete and perfect. But God has also identified the seven lamps in Scripture as a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

Zech 4:1-6, 10

- 1 Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep.
- 2 He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights.
- 3 Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."
- 4 I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?"
- 5 He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied.
- 6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.
- 10 "Who despises the day of small things? Men will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range throughout the earth.)" (NIV)

Zech 3:9

See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day. (NIV)

Rev 4:5

From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. (NIV)

Rev 5:6

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. (NIV)

*The seven horns speak to his fullness of power (omnipotence- Hab. 3:4) and the seven eyes speak of the fullness of insight (omniscience- Zech. 3:9). The eyes and the lamps come together in word picture in the vision of our Lord in the first chapter of Revelation. "His eyes were like blazing fire." (Rev. 1:14). Jesus had the full anointing of the Holy*

*Spirit without measure.*

John 3:33

Those who believe him discover that God is a fountain of truth. For this one-- sent by God-- speaks God's words, for God's Spirit is upon him without measure or limit. (TLB)

The sevenfold Spirit of God is described in Isaiah.

Isa 11:1-2 (NIV)

1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--

This Holy Spirit of God is not simply an essence or impersonal power source. The Holy Spirit is a person. He can be grieved (Eph. 4:9), resisted (Acts 7:51), and blasphemed (Matt. 12:31) as well as fellowshiped with (Phil. 2:1; 2 Cor. 13:14). [*Those of you who have sat in a class called Fellowship With Jesus Christ by Vicky Sides might want to consider the implications to your life of fellowship with the Holy Spirit*] He also addresses the church in Scripture.

Rev 1:4-6

4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come [*The Father*], and from the seven spirits before his throne [*The Holy Spirit*],  
5 and from Jesus Christ [*The Son*], who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,  
6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. (NIV)

Fifth: The golden lampstand gave light over against itself (Ex. 25:37; Num. 8:2-3). Not only is the Holy Spirit identified with the lamp, the word of God is also. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. (Ps 119:105)" The word is not only its own source of interpretation, the Holy Spirit is its source of inspiration and illumination.

Ps 36:9 "For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light." (NIV)

John 14:25-26

25 "All this I have spoken while still with you.  
26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (NIV)

John 16:13-15

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to

come.

14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. (NIV)

Sixth: Pure (pressed) olive oil was used for the lamps.

Exod 27:20-21

20 "Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning.

21 In the Tent of Meeting, outside the curtain that is in front of the Testimony, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the LORD from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come. (NIV)

It is significant that God used oil lamps in His holy place. The KJV translates the lampstand as "candlestick". When we say candlestick, we naturally think of a candle. But a candle and an oil lamp are very different. A candle burns by self-consumption. A lamp continues to give light because its wicks are trimmed and its oil is *continually resupplied*. It is true that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, but we must also be being continually filled with his power and presence.

The pressed olives also point prophetically to another event in Scripture.

Matt 26:36-39

36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."

37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." (NIV)

Gethsemane means "olive press." It was at Gethsemane that Jesus set his face like flint to face the fire of the cross. The extent of his pressing can be seen in Luke.

Luke 22:41-44

41 He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed,

42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done."

43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.

44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. (NIV)

Medically, this condition is referred to as hematidrosis, the mingling of blood and sweat in cases of extreme anguish, strain, or sensitivity. It was to this event that the writer of Hebrews refers.

Heb 5:7-8

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered (NIV)

Through the press of Gethsemane, Jesus became the source of anointing for all who would come.

Acts 2:32-33

32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. (NIV)

Seventh: The lampstand is symbolic of the church of Jesus Christ, the light to the world in this day and age.

Rev 1:12-13, 20

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (NIV)

The lampstand is the church. I want to give you four principles to make the most of the light the Father of lights (James 1:17) lit in you.

1. Our Connection-

Matt 5:14-16

14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (NIV)

The best place for a light is the lampstand. When placed on the lampstand, it gives light to the whole house. We believers need to be connected to a local church body if we are going to maximize our light giving potential.

I Jn 1:7

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. (NIV)

God says that if we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another. If we are

not having fellowship with one another, we must seriously consider the fact that we may be walking in darkness. God designed us to be in a family. We were born into a family naturally. We were also born into a family spiritually. It is while walking out the Christian life with the family that we grow the most and shine the brightest.

John 13:35

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (NIV)

## 2. Our Consecration-

Just as oil was poured into the lamp to make it burn, so we need the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Eph 5:18

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. (NIV)

This is a word to born again, Holy Spirit indwelt believers. We need to be continually filled with the river of life in our lives. This filling also speaks of a sanctifying work. It keeps us from debauchery. The priests in the tabernacle not only filled the lamps, they also trimmed the wicks, removing the burned out and smoldering pieces.

Matt 12:18-21

18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

19 He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory.

21 In his name the nations will put their hope." (NIV)

Jesus our High Priest not only supplies us with the oil of the Holy Spirit, but he also trims our wicks, removing the soiled and burned out pieces of our lives that we might shine with greater efficiency. He is always about rekindling our fire, not putting it out.

## 3. Our Confession-

Phil 2:13-16

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16  Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. (KJV)

## 4. Our Conversation-

Eph 5:8-10

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

10 and find out what pleases the Lord. (NIV)

Our behavior has be in accordance to our beliefs. Our character has to match our creed. Our walk must agree with our witness.

Phil 1:27

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel (NIV)

It is when we are connected to a local church body, continually being filled and consecrated by the Holy Spirit, confessing His name before men while having our conversation in a manner befitting children of God that our lights will shine their brightest before men and attract the lost like moths to the flame.

*In the golden Lampstand, God has shown us His pattern and standard for light. He is the father of lights who sent his son to bring light to the world. Jesus was crucified, died, buried, resurrected and ascended in order to pour out on us the oil of his Holy Spirit that the church might be the light of the world in this day and age. We need to walk in His light, the light of his Holy Spirit illuminated and empowered Word, and have fellowship one with another, together living and proclaiming the Gospel that men might be delivered from darkness and come into His glorious light. Amen!*