

KNOWING JESUS THROUGH THE STUDY OF THE TABERNACLE

Part 7 – The Golden Lampstand (Menorah)

Entering the Tabernacle from outer court. Only Priests and high Priests are allowed to enter. Not open for people. We have passed the courts, we have passed the brazen altar, we have passed the brazen laver and now we have entered the Tabernacle. We know Tabernacle is divided into the Holy Place and Most Holy Place. Standing in the Holy place, right side is the table of shewbread, left side is the Golden lampstand and in the front of us is the altar of incense in the centre just in front of veil dividing Holy place & Most Holy place.

Only High priest can enter the Most Holy place but regular priests can enter Holy Place any time of the year. As you enter from the bright sunlight into this canopied structure, you will find that the only source of light in the Holy place comes from the Golden lampstand that burns continuously, all the time.

The emblem of Israel is the Menorah - symbolizes universal enlightenment, based on what is written in Isaiah 60: "Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn". Olive branches on the side.

“The final menorah used for the emblem was based on one found on the Arch of Titus in, believe it or not, Rome. The arch shows Titus and his army returning to Rome with the spoils from Jerusalem after destroying it in 70 AD. In Rome, this picture symbolized defeat and humiliation for the Jewish people. But on the new national emblem of Israel, the same menorah stood for the rebirth and restoration of the Jewish nation. The emblem is widely used on official Israeli documents, government buildings, and, of course, on an Israeli passport.”



Names used – Golden lampstand , Menorah (Hebrew), Golden candlestick (KJV) – lamp with no candles.

The golden lampstand is an important symbol in the Bible. It is mentioned in Exodus 25, 1 Kings 7, Zechariah 4, and Revelation 1.

Instruction/ blueprint given: Exodus 25: 31-40

³¹ “Make a lampstand of pure gold. Hammer out its base and shaft, and make its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms of one piece with them. 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.

Exodus 27: 20 “You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may regularly be set up to burn. 21 In the tent of meeting, outside the veil that is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the Lord. It shall be a statute forever to be observed throughout their generations by the people of Israel.

Leviticus 24:2-4 “Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil from beaten olives for the lamp, that a light may be kept burning regularly. 3 Outside the veil of the testimony, in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall arrange it from evening to morning before the Lord regularly. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations. 4 He shall arrange the lamps on the lampstand of pure gold before the Lord regularly.

Numbers 8:2-4 “Speak to Aaron and say to him, When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand.” 3 And Aaron did so: he set up its lamps in front of the lampstand, as the Lord commanded Moses. 4 And this was the workmanship of the lampstand, hammered work of gold. From its base to its flowers, it was hammered work; according to the pattern that the Lord had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.

Execution : Exodus 37:17-24

17 He also made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand of hammered work. Its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers were of one piece with it. 18 And there were six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; 19 three cups made like

almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. 20 And on the lampstand itself were four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, 21 and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out of it. 22 Their calyxes and their branches were of one piece with it. The whole of it was a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. 23 And he made its seven lamps and its tongs and its trays of pure gold. 24 He made it and all its utensils out of a talent of pure gold.

General specifications: Innumerable forms of the lampstand has been created over the centuries, but no one knows how the Menorahs looked exactly at the time of Moses and at the time of the first and second temples in Jerusalem. And nobody knows exactly how the 22 almond blossoms were positioned on the 7 arms.

1. Location: The Golden lampstand was positioned on the south side of the Tabernacle within the Holy Place. It was placed opposite of the table of shewbread. It was one of three pieces of furniture within that compartment where nothing but gold was seen by the eye of the priest – a scene displaying the glory of God. Only the sons of Aaron, the priestly family, were permitted to enter this sacred place and behold the splendor of the gold as it was illuminated by the light of the golden lampstand.



2. Dimensions: No Dimensions only structure/ design. According to the Jewish Midrash, the candlestick was the “height of an average man”. However, no measurements are given in Scripture as to its exact size, thus reflecting the thought that God’s light of Truth is immeasurable.

3. Its materials – solid gold, pure hammered gold (not gold plated)

4. Its vessels – snuffers/ wick trimmers, trays – pure gold.

5. Its use – Source of light for the tabernacle. Sunlight cannot enter the tabernacle.

6. Instruction when the camp moves: ***Leviticus 4:9-10*** “***Next they must cover the lampstand with a blue cloth, along with its lamps, lamp snuffers, trays, and special jars of olive oil. 10 Then they must cover the lampstand and its accessories with fine goatskin leather and place the bundle on a carrying frame. 16 “Eleazar son of Aaron the priest will be***

responsible for the oil of the lampstand, the fragrant incense, the daily grain offering, and the anointing oil.

Specific Instructions:

1. Regarding structure:

- a. You shall make the entire lampstand of pure, hammered gold of one piece:** The base, shaft/centrepiece, lamp cups, buds & petals. The accessories made of pure gold. 75 pounds/ 35 kgs of pure gold for the lampstand and its accessories (1.4 million USD) – excellence
- b. Make it with six branches going out from the center stem, three on each side.**
- c. *Each of the six branches will have three lamp cups shaped like almond blossoms, complete with buds and petals. Craft the center stem of the lampstand with four lamp cups shaped like almond blossoms, complete with buds and petals. 35 There will also be an almond bud beneath each pair of branches where the six branches extend from the center stem. 36 The almond buds and branches must all be of one piece with the center stem, and they must be hammered from pure gold.(v 33-36)***

Imagine the skill needed.

2. Regarding burning, operation & maintenance of the light/ lampstand: Then make the seven lamps for the lampstand and set them so they reflect their light forward. (v.37)

- Seven lamps for lampstand
- Set them so they reflect light forward.
- The lamps need to be burning continually in the Lord's presence (paniym). Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the Lord.
- Pure Oil from pressed olives for the light (No battery, generator, gasoline oil used)
- The maintenance of the light in the lampstand was the direct responsibility of the High Priest (Ex 30:7, 8). It would appear that the lamps were dressed and filled each morning and lighted each evening. Thus "the lamps were caused to burn continually" (Lev 24:2, 3) i.e. – every night, from evening to morning. The trimming of the wicks and the addition of fresh oil ensured a bright light. The tongs and snuff-dishes, or censers, were used for this work.

The Significance of The Golden lampstand:

1. **Hammered/beaten Gold** – There were other articles made out of hammered gold. Cherubim was to be made of hammered gold, gold thread for Ephod by hammering out thin sheets of gold and cut into fine strands and worked it into fine linen with the blue, purple and scarlet thread. Trumpets made out of beaten silver. All these required great skill, care, precision and workmanship.

The element of the lampstand is pure gold, which is a type of God's divine nature/ diety. Gold doesn't decay or change – God is unchanging, never decaying or getting old (Exo. 25:31).

Gold was the most valuable of all *metals (Psalm 119:127 Truly, I love your commands more than gold, even the finest gold.; 19:10 They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold)*.

Gold is often spoken of in terms of being “tested by fire”; the Bible compares the testing of gold with the testing of the church in ***1 Peter 1:7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.***

Out of testing, or refining, will come the true people of God. ***Zechariah 13:7–9 I will bring that group through the fire and make them pure. I will refine them like silver and purify them like gold.***

Job 23:10 But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. Those who withstand the “fire” will be purified .

Numbers 31:23 Anything made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, tin, or lead that is, all metals that do not burn—must be passed through fire in order to be made ceremonially pure.

Hammered into one piece – may be several gold would have been melted to make this big structure as one piece. You have to go through hammering if you want to shine forth for Jesus. Hammer is not spared. It is a part of the design/ structure of a lamp that burns, to shine your light to the world. The lamp in the process of making, would have received several blows – ultimate plan is to shape you. It is not for fruitless purpose but to shape you.

Do you want to bear more fruit? We must be ready to go through the process of pruning .

Gold never loses its value however it is crushed – A dollar bill has the same value even if it is tossed around, stamped, crushed, or thrown across. It never loses its value.

We are refined as gold – not to be showpieces, decorative pieces but to shine His light in the world, to point out Christ to the world. You were made of gold for a reason, and it wasn't to draw attention to you or your wondrous lustre; you were made with the purpose of spreading God's image.

God's discipline produces best results. ***Hebrews 4:7-11 As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Who ever heard of a child who is never disciplined by its father? 8 If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all. 9 Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever?***

10 For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. 11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Proverbs 3:12 For the Lord corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

Romans 8:18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.

Revelation 3:19 I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.

Now, how does it relate to us?

- **Jesus, the light of the world**. Just as the lampstand was made out of hammered gold, Jesus Christ went through suffering, crushing, humiliation, pain, shame and agony for you and me. He was pierced through for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, scourged for our healing. He was hammered / beaten (out of love for us) so that the light of God could shine into our lives.

As the Lampstand was the source of light for the tabernacle, Jesus came into this world as light of God. The world did not know Him, understand Him or receive Him. They rejected His light. We see the **prophetic fulfillment of Isaiah 9:2 The people who walk**

in darkness, will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.

John 1:4-5 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. 5 And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.

John 1:9-11 This was the true Light that, coming into the world, enlightens every person. 10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him, and yet the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him.

John 12:46 I have come as a light to shine in this dark world, so that all who put their trust in me will no longer remain in the dark.

John 12:35 So Jesus said to them, “For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes.

John 12: 36 While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light.” These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them.

John 9:5 But while I am here in the world, I am the light of the world.”

John 8: 12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.

2 Cor 4:6 For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

There is a reason why the pattern was laid for the structure of tabernacle with four layers/coverings and veils at the door. Not a ray of sunlight or any light could pass through. The lampstand (Jesus) had to be the only source of light. Sun or moon (creation – natural sources of light) bows down to the creator. Jesus outshines the sun and He is brighter than the morning star.

Acts 26:13 (Paul testifying before King Agrippa) About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground....15 “Who are you, lord?” I asked. “And the Lord replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting.

Habakkuk 3:4 His radiance is like the sunlight.

Luke 1:78,79 Because of the tender mercy of our God, with which the Sunrise from on high (morning light from heaven) will visit us, To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Psalm 84:11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield;

When the light shines, every power of the darkness and every scheme of the enemy must flee, disperse. Amen & Amen !

- ***His word is our light. Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Psalm 119:130 The teaching of your word (unfolding of your word) gives light, so even the simple can understand.*** Our natural mind cannot understand the way of God. God reveals Himself to us through Jesus Christ & His word. Knowledge of God & His ways are revealed to us.
- ***We are called ‘to be the light of the world’. Mathew 5: 14 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. 15 No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.***

Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining and arguing, 15 so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people.

As the Lampstand was to cast its light in the direction of the Ark, so Jesus came to reveal to us the Father. He is the Light that makes us see who the Father is.

God needs a man to shine forth his light. His people are now the lampstand/ light on the earth to shine the light of God. We are called to shine forth in our home, job, neighborhood and show them what the Father looks like.

- ***We are called to be living in the light, in fellowship with God.***

1 John 1: 5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

9 The one who says that he is in the Light and yet hates his brother or sister is in the darkness until now. 10 The one who loves his brother and sister remains in the Light, and there is nothing in him to cause stumbling. 11 But the one who hates his brother or sister, is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

2. The Pattern : One shaft/ main stem and 6 branches out of the sides of it.

The lampstand had a central branch from which three branches extended from each side, forming a total of seven branches. Seven lamps holding olive oil and wicks stood on top of the branches. Each branch looked like that of an almond tree, containing buds, blossoms and flowers. The priests were instructed to keep the lamps burning continuously.

When they made the lampstand, they did not make the shaft separately and attach it to the base, and they did not make the branches and bowls and ornamental knobs separately and attach them to the branches. They hammered one talent of gold—in other words, one piece of gold—and made the base, the shaft, the branches, the bowls, and the ornamental knobs. Everything was made from one piece of gold.

The word “shaft” is translated “thigh” or “loins” in Genesis 46:26, Exodus 1:5, and Judges 8:30. Children are represented in these Scriptures as proceeding from the thigh or loins of their parents. Similarly, the six branches spring from the shaft of the lampstand. The lampstand had also “its branch” which sprang up from the central shaft while the six branches came out of the sides. This single central branch was more elaborately adorned than the other branches, having four bowls with knobs and flowers.

Represents Christ and the church. The six branches (6 being the number of man) plus the main shaft equals seven lights (7 being the number of completion)—man is only complete in Christ (John 15:5) ***I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.***

The shape reminds of a flowering tree of life. On each of the six side arms were 3 golden almond blossoms and together with the 4 on the center shaft, there were exactly 22 almond blossoms.

Why Almond blossom? Almond tree is the first tree in Israel, which awakes from its winter sleep to life and blooms, arriving before the leaves begin to form. God chose the resemblance of the lampstand to almond branches for a reason. The almond tree blooms very early in the Middle East, in late January or February. Almond blossoms appear along the branches of the almond tree before the leaves have even begun to sprout, hinting at the emergence of spring. The arrival of these tiny white buds signifies the end of winter, and in many cultures, it has become a symbol of new life. It's Hebrew root word, '*shaked*', means "to hasten," telling the Israelites that God is quick to fulfill his promises. In Israel, the almond tree and its blossoms play an important role in the Jewish religion.

Aaron's staff, which was a piece of almond wood, miraculously budded, bloomed, and produced almonds, indicating that God chose him as high priest. (Numbers 17:8) That rod was later put inside the ark of the covenant, which was kept in the tabernacle holy of holies, as a reminder of God's faithfulness to his people.

3. The Seven lamps & the oil

Exo 25:37 "Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it.

The number seven, in the "seven spirits of God" (Revelation 4:5), represents completeness, perfection; a complete and entire state. "The book of Revelation makes mention of seven lamps, seven spirits, seven churches, seven lampstands, seven seals, seven horns, seven eyes, seven trumpets, seven plagues, seven thunders, etc.

Each of the flower-shaped cups held a measure of olive oil and a cloth wick. Like ancient pottery oil lamps, its wick became saturated with oil, was lit, and gave off a flame.

We know that the oil that fuels the lampstands also has special significance in representing the Holy Spirit--oil seems to represent the Spirit in both the Old Testament and New Testament and it was important that the lamps always be kept trimmed and full so that they never go out because the Spirit never stops doing His work in the people of God (the Church) and we are to never have our light extinguished or to "quench the Holy Spirit."

The light of the lampstand was a perpetual light that never went out from Moses' time until the building of Solomon's temple. Historians indicate 500 years passed between the exodus out of Egypt and the time of Solomon. All of this time, the lampstand was burning, and all of this time, the people provided the oil for fuel.

Operation/ work of the Holy Spirit in the sanctuary:

Pure Pressed olive oil – Olive goes through a process of pressing to produce pure first quality oil. We are pressed – ***2 Cor 4: 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*** (We are hard pressed on every side — yes real troubles coming from all directions, but not crushed. Perplexed — no clear path or course of action or solution in sight, but no cause for despair) .

The crushing that you go through is not in vain but produces wine & oil.

Wicks trimmed every day : It would appear that the lamps were dressed and filled each morning and lighted each evening. Thus “the lamps were caused to burn continually” (Lev 24:2, 3) i.e. – every night, from evening to morning. The trimming of the wicks and the addition of fresh oil ensured a bright light. The tongs and snuff-dishes, or censers, were used for this work.

Ephesians 5:18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Dependency on the Holy Spirit. **No light without the oil.** The fire lit on the seven lamps is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Fire purifies, refines, exposes things.

The Golden lampstand sheds light for the ministry at the Table of Shewbread and altar of incense in the Holy Place. The lampstand was the only source of light in the Holy Place, so without it, the priests would have been moping around in the dark. The light shone upon the table of showbread and the altar of incense, enabling the priests to fellowship with God and intercede on behalf of God's people.

Word of God needs to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit. He brings it to life. You need Him. Prayer needs to be saturated with the power of the Holy Spirit. He helps you to pray.