

Exodus 25:31-40 – The Lampstand in the Holy Place

Calvin, TSK, Poythress, Sailhamer, Schultz, Edersheim, Gaebelin, HebrewLexicon, Geneva, JFB, Trapp, Poole, Pink, Henry, Barnes, Maclaren, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: In the Holy Place of the tabernacle, there were 3 tables. So far we have examined the table on the north side. This was the Table of Showbread (Table of his Presence). You learned the **Showbread on that 1s table pictured the Lord Jesus who met his people, saved them, and sustained them continually.**

We now come to the table on the south side of the tabernacle. **On this table there was a golden lampstand.**

Keep in mind all these pictures and signs from the sacrifices, the priests, and the tabernacle, were guides for God’s people, to help them understand who Jesus would be and what he would do for them.

Our headings are:

The Symbols

The Service

Our goals are: **That you will be refreshed with the light of the Gospel of Jesus that shines on you on account of you being chosen by the Father for eternal salvation, and that you will in turn, reflect that to the world.**

The Symbols

31 "You shall also make a **lampstand of pure gold**; the lampstand shall be of **hammered work**. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall **be of one piece**.

1. The priests had to make a beautiful and well-designed golden lampstand.

(The KJV made an interpretation here; it did not translate. It translated lampstand as “candlestick.” But candlesticks were not invented until 1500 years later.)

The word meant “lamp bearer.” Another name for the lampstand was “menorah.” The Jews still use “menorah” today.

2. The lampstand had to be a hammered work, meaning it was beaten into sheets and then formed.

It was not poured in a mold like Aaron did when the Israelites **rebelled and made a molded calf to worship in the desert**. Using a mold would have been easy, but using a hand-made method would have **made the priests reflect on the importance of their work**. (A hand-crafted item is preferred over a machine-made item, isn’t it?)

39 "It shall be made of **a talent of pure gold**, with all these utensils.

3. The lampstand had to be made of pure gold – about 1 talent in weight.

One talent is about 120 pounds (though some say it is about 75). Either way, that was remarkably heavy for a lamp...and extremely valuable. (This was over \$4,000,000.00 today.)

This lampstand represented God the Father and his work, so it had to be made of the best possible material-pure gold.

4. The priests had to make the whole lampstand of one piece.
God is one! The Gospel is one.

32 "And **six branches** shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side.

5. The priests had to make the menorah (the lamp) with 7 branches, three on either side and the main one in the middle.

It was about 3 feet high and 2 feet wide.

Seven is the number of completion! Seven is God's number.

33 "**Three bowls** shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower — and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand. 34 "On the lampstand itself **four bowls** shall be made **like almond blossoms**, each with its ornamental **knob and flower**. 35 "And there shall be a knob under the first two branches of the same, a knob under the second two branches of the same, and a knob under the third two branches of the same, according to the **six branches** that extend from the lampstand. 36 "Their knobs and their branches shall be of one piece; all of it shall be one hammered piece of pure gold.

6. The shaft of each lamp was decorated with 4 almond blossoms.

Each almond blossom bowl had to have one flower and one bud.

You can see this was a thing of beauty. This was not your "Dollar Store" candlestick! It was incredibly fine and beautiful work. These were the same kinds of decorations Solomon put on the great columns when he built the temple.

But why did it have to have a flower and a bud...was that only a matter of beauty? No. A flower shows blessings and the bud shows more potential blessings.

God has no end of blessings for his people.

And why almond...why not the fig blossoms or pomegranate blossoms? The almond blossom is not only beautiful, but more importantly, it is the earliest fruit tree in the Middle East – budding as early as Mid-December.

This reminds you of the nearness of God's blessings!

You will remember too that **Aaron's rod** budded...showing the dead coming to life. What did it bear? **It bore almonds!**

This is a picture of life. The spiritually dead are raised.

38 "And its wick-trimmers and their trays shall be of pure gold.

7. Even the wick-trimmers and the trays under the lampstand had to be made of pure gold. Anything associated with God had to be perfect.

40 "And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

8. In fact, everything done in the whole tabernacle had to be done according to everything God has said on the mountain.

God wanted this because his worship was most important and it had to be precisely done.

9. A couple more lessons:

a. Take time to learn all the lessons from the symbols and ceremonies in the Old Testament. There is much to learn. **They all pointed to who God is and what he would do for his covenant people through his Son, their covenant keeper.**

The writer of Hebrews confirmed that all of those things in the temple and tabernacle worship pointed to the work of the Savior.

Hebrews 8:5 who serve the **copy and shadow of the heavenly (high/important) things**, as Moses was **divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle**. For He said, "See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

b. The more you learn of the work of the Savior, even through these symbols, the better you'll worship and serve him.

c. God does not want you to change anything in his worship! Don't dare try to! If you do, he will be very angry with you.

The Service

37 "**You shall make seven lamps for it**, and they shall arrange its lamps so that **they give light in front of it**.

1. God required the seven lights on the lampstand to be made so they would project their light forward.

Why? What was on the other side? You will remember the Table of Showbread was on the opposite side of the tabernacle, the north side, and the Table of the Lampstand was on the south side, **so the light was to be aimed on the Table of Showbread – to put emphasis on it.**

Exodus 40:24 He put the lampstand in the tabernacle of meeting, across from the table, on the south side of the tabernacle;

Keep in mind the tabernacle had no widows, so it would have been in total darkness without the menorah. Therefore, the priests would not have been able to see the Table of Showbread and the spiritual picture would have been lost.

2. Each evening and morning the priests would fill the lamp with olive oil so it always gave light.

The **oil for this lamp was carefully prepared.** It had to be pure.

Exodus 27:20 "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually.

The lamp never stopped shining on the Table of Showbread.

3. The golden lampstand was primarily a picture of the Father who is pictured as the Father of Lights.

The Father gave the Lord Jesus, the most perfect and needed gift of all.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and **comes down from the Father of lights,** with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

But the Son is the "Light of the World." Jesus wasn't this light from the candle stick, but he was close to his Father and reflected his Father.

Revelation 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw **seven golden lampstands,** 13 and **in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man...**

And the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Light but he is seen filling this lamp – the menorah.

Zechariah 4:1 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. 2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and **there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it,** and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. **6** So he answered and 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 of hosts.

He is the one working for the brightness. He wasn't the brightness.

4. Lessons:

a. The Father of all Lights continues to shine on all his children, pointing them to Christ, just as the menorah pointed to the Table of Showbread. Man was as dark as the tabernacle...but then the light of God shone on man. This is God's favor on his children and on the Gentiles as well!

Isaiah 60: 1 Arise, shine; For **your light has come!** And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, **the darkness shall cover the earth,** And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And **His glory will be seen upon you.** 3 The **Gentiles shall come to your light,** And kings to the brightness of your rising.

The Father of Lights' light never goes out.

b. Seven lamps mean God's light is sufficient. You don't need any other "light." In his light you see everything.

c. You are to reflect that light...as that city on a hill...so Gentiles can see it and be saved.

You have that light in you.

Colossians 1:12 ...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to **be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.**

You walk in that light.

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light**

You shine that light in the world.

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, **among whom you shine as lights in the world,**

How has your light been shining for Jesus over this past year during this turmoil? Let this knowledge of your hopeless and the knowledge of the Father's light spur you to action! You have work to do. Let fear or Covid or any other thing disappear. Work as children of light.

d. What a beautiful reminder from the stem of lamps of how God gave life to the spiritually dead! That's what light does! If there were no light, there would be no plants. There would be no life.

Conclusion:

God required a menorah, a 7-lamp lampstand, decorated with all the symbols. Its light was directed to the Table of Showbread. They had to make it and use it exactly as God said in order to receive the benefits from it.

Beloved in the Lord:

1. God shone his light and opened your eyes to see the Gospel - how his Son came and lived and died for you. You were in darkness and did not know how to find Jesus. But God was gracious to you.

2. Thank God for showing you Jesus. Thank him every day. You'd have no life without him! Worship him! Don't stop! Don't let anyone stop you.

3. Shine the light of Jesus on the world! (Isaiah 60) Let them learn of Jesus and live. This little light of mine...I'm going to let it shine. Hide it under a bushel basket? No. Absolutely no! The world badly needs this Gospel now. Look how lost the world is. It needs to be saved and guided. Even some Christians look lost and need to be reminded of the Gospel and how to live! Shine!

Finally, do you know the Father of Lights? If you don't, you are in darkness. You don't know how bad you are and how much you need salvation. I urge you today, if you don't know the Father of Lights, ask him to shine on you. Ask him to show you your sins. Ask him to show you the work of Jesus – his life and his death. And ask him to make you grab hold of what Jesus did so you could have new life.